BIG COMIC SUPERIOR

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AZUMI
21. THE RASETSU'S ATTACK

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CHAPTER 1:
LIAR




PLEASE GIVE ME THE KEY THAT OPENS THIS!
THE KEY.


PLE-ASE! THE KEY!

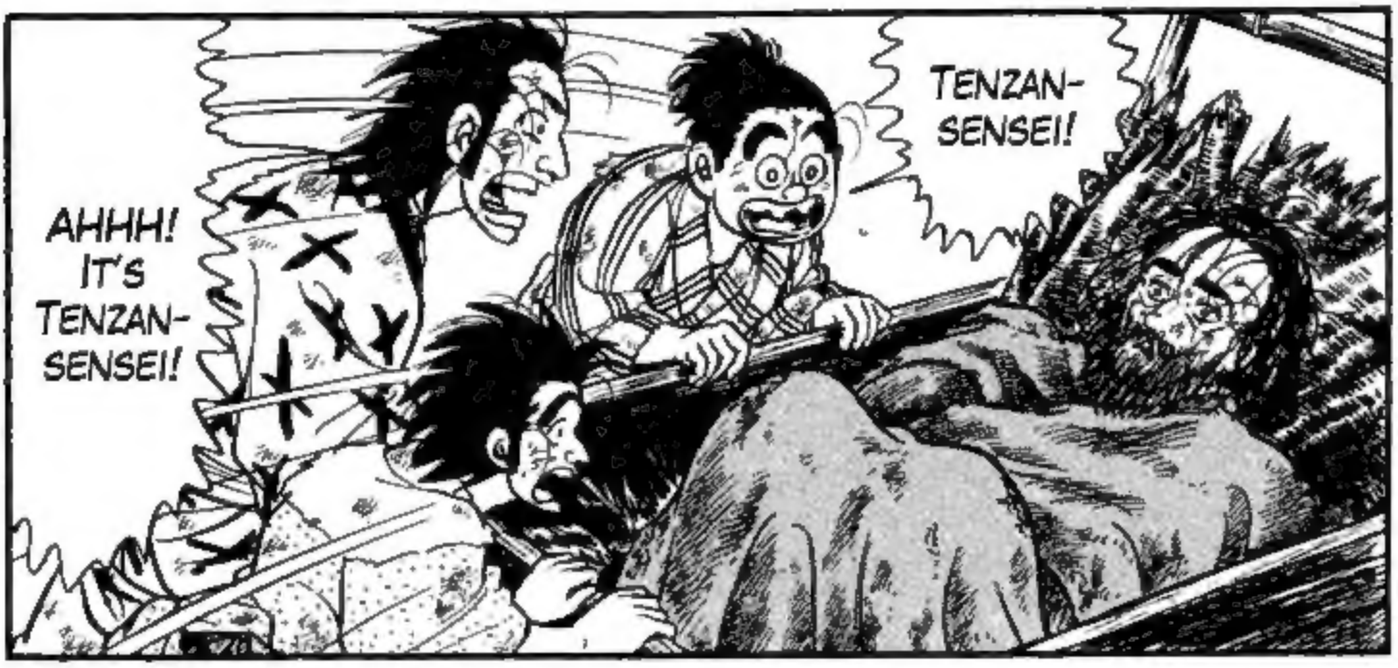



TEN-ZAN-DONO !!
LET'S GET OUT!
YOU CAN LEAVE THIS PLACE!


THAT'S RIGHT! TENZAN-DONO! IT'S ME, AZUMI!
AHH!
HUH?
AZU... MI... SAN...?


.....


AHH!
AHHHH!!!
SENSEI!


TENZAN-SENSEI!
AHHH! IT'S TENZAN-SENSEI!


TENZAN-SENSEEEEI! YOU'RE ALIIIIIVE!
TENZAN-SENSEEI! YOU'RE SAFE!


.....
IN A WARM ROOM, RIGHT?
THE FAVOR OF HAVING SOMEONE CARE FOR HIM
YOU CAN DO ME


YOU'LL DO THIS FOR ME, RIGHT!?




THAT THEY WANTED TO LEAVE!
THEY JUST KEPT SELFISHLY SAYING
WHY!?!?
WHY DIDN'T THOSE PEOPLE, THE FELLOWS MET ALONG THE ROAD, WHY DIDN'T THEY TRY TO WORK TOGETHER WITH ME TO ENRICH THE WHOLE COUNTRY BY STAYING IN THIS LAND!?
WHY!?


IF EVEN A SINGLE ONE OF THEM...
WENT TO ANOTHER PROVINCE AND SPOKEN OF THIS, EVEN INAD-VERTENTLY ...
JUST THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TO DESTROY THIS ENTIRE FIEF!


FOR THIS NATION... FOR THE GREATER GOOD
IT COULDN'T BE HELPED! A FEW OF THEM HAD TO DIE!

6


THE VERY MISSIONS YOU CARRY OUT, AZUMI-SAN! AREN'T THEY THE SAME!?
YOU DISPATCH ENEMIES FOR A GREATER CAUSE!
FOR THE WHOLE COUNTRY!
.....


IS IT NOT!? AM I WRONG!?
IT'S THE EXACT SAME THING!
THEY ARE NO DIFF-ERENT!

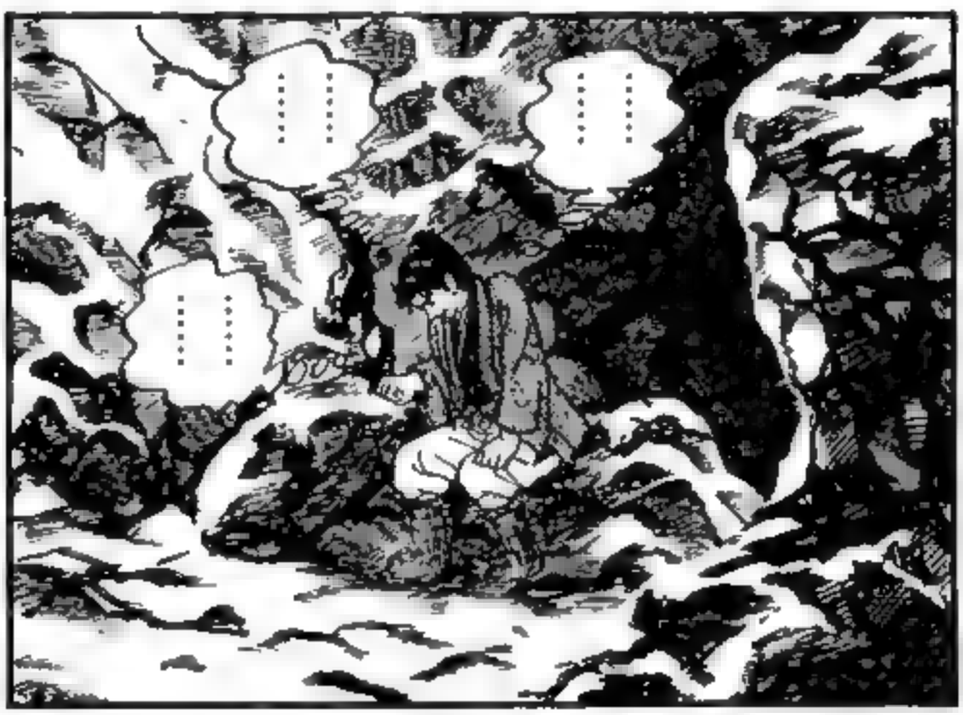

WAS THE LARGE QUANTITY OF RIFLES AND GUNPOWDER COM-PLETELY STOLEN BY GENSAI AND HIS MEN!?
THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO TRADE THEORIES.
.....
I DON'T KNOW.


.....
WE WERE TOO LATE...
YES...
.....




.....




.....
.....


.....


HER HEART WILL... NEVER LEAN MY WAY NOW...NOT ANYMORE...
AZUMI-SAN... HAS TURNED HER BACK... ON ME.


AGGGH GGGGH!
AH... AHH..
GHH HHHH HHHH


ドカカカッ


EVERYONE STOP WORKING AND ASSEMBLE!
HEEEEY! SHIZUNE-SAMA HAS ARRIVED!


SHIZU-
NE...
EVERYONE GATHER!
SHIZUNE-SAMA HAS COME TO PAY US A VISIT!!


KAGARI, HATSUNE! THIS WAY!


SO WHERE DID SHE GO!?
WHAT!? SO AZUMI CAME HERE!?
NO CLUE.


OH! WHERE DID YOU GET THOSE!?
WEAR THESE WHITE COATS OR ELSE YOU'RE GONNA GET KILLED.


ガヤ
ガヤ
ガヤ
IS EVERY-ONE HERE!?
DOES ANYONE REMAIN IN THE MINE!?


ガヤ
DO YOU KNOW? A GREAT NUMBER OF PEOPLE PREPARED FOR BATTLE AND WENT TOWARD THE CASTLE TOWN...
ガヤ
ガヤ


I COULD NOT COMPLY IN TIME.
SINCE IT WAS AN UNSCHEDULED MEETING, I COULDN'T STOP THE FURNACE...
WHAT HAPP-ENED!?
I'VE HEARD THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE WORKING IN THE GOLD MINE HAVE NOT COME TO TODAY'S SECOND MEETING...


SHIZU-NE...
PERHAPS, GENSAI AND THE OTHERS ARE NOT THE SAMURAI
WE THOUGHT THEY WERE...AT THIS RATE...
I SEE! OH WELL...
THAT'S WHY I CAME IN PERSON THIS TIME...

DON'T WORRY, SHUNJIRO. CALM YOURSELF, SIT THERE AND LISTEN UP.
.....



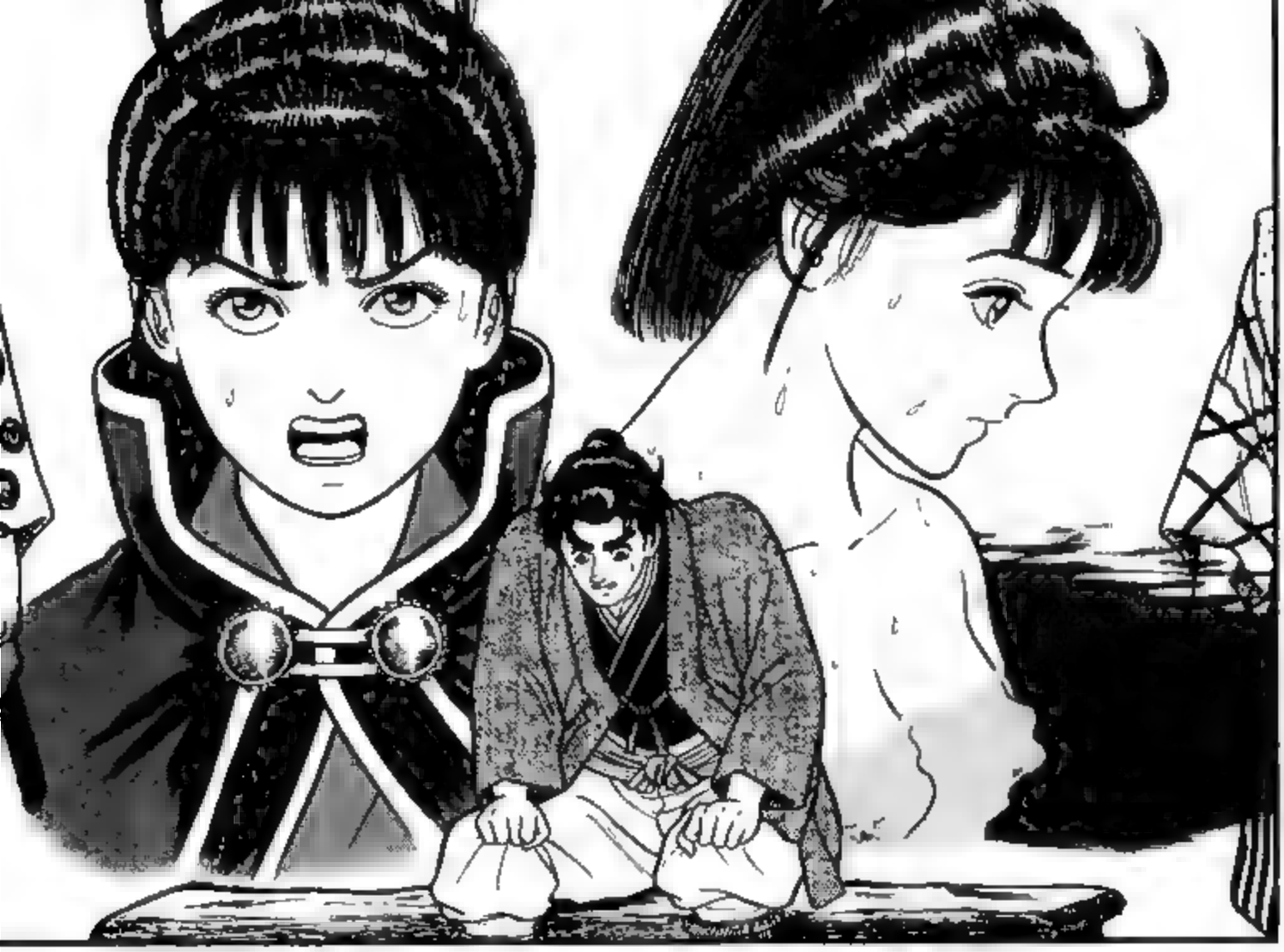


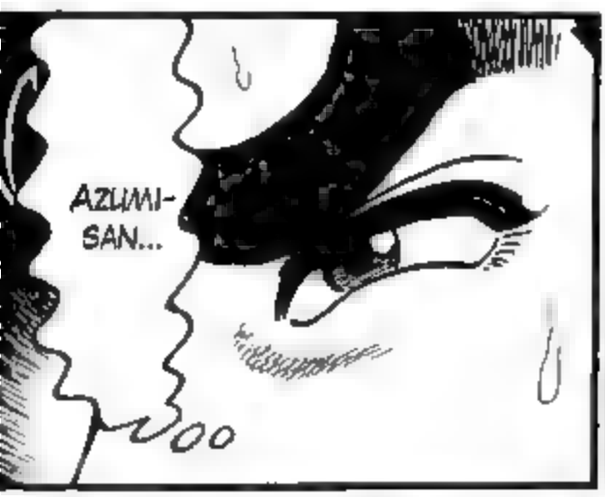

AAAAAH! SHIZUNE-SAMAAAAA! PLEASE GRANT US YOUR DIVINE PROTECTION!
WHO KNOWS? WE'RE WAITING FOR HIM HERE!
HAS SHIZUNE-SAMA GONE HOME ON THE OTHER SIDE?


WHAAA!?
WHA AAAA AAAA AAT!
AHH!

14


AHHH, SHE'S CROSSING!
TO THINK THAT THERE WAS SOMEONE ELSE ASIDE FROM SHIZUNE-SAMA WHO COULD CROSS THIS VALLEY...!




AZUMI-
SAN...


I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO HAVE AZUMI-SAN FOR MY OWN..
I'VE... ALREADY LOST HER...


I.. I..
I..


SO...DOES THIS MEAN...I WAS USED!?
I WAS DECEIVED...BY GENSAI AND THE OTHERS...

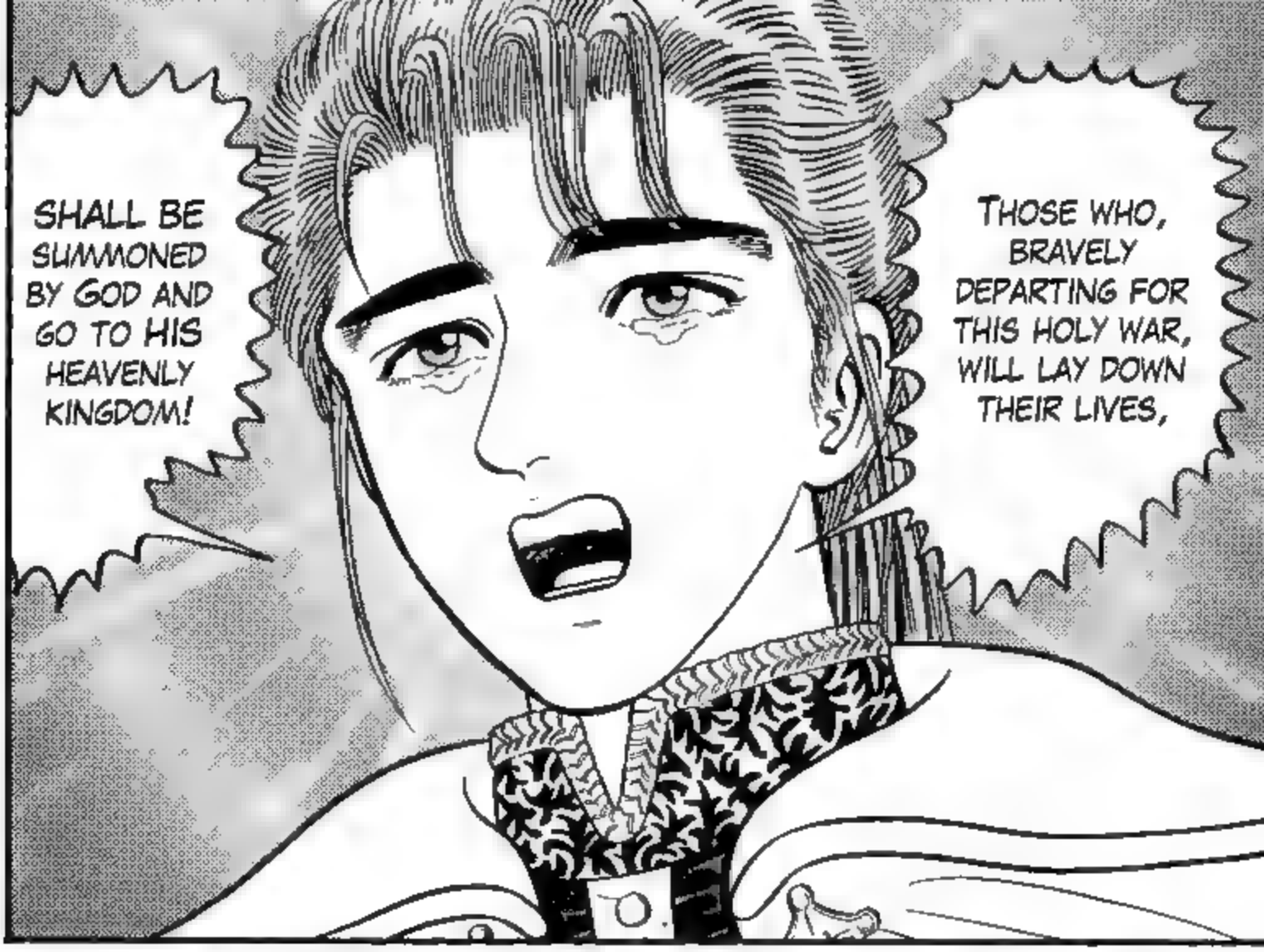

NOT POSSIBLE!
THAT'S...


AN UNFORSEEN SITUATION THAT EVEN GENSAI AND HIS MEN DIDN'T THINK ABOUT HAS HAPPENED!!
THAT'S RIGHT!
THAT CANNOT BE THE CASE! THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE!


NO... THAT'S ABSURD!
WAS I REALLY TRICKED!?
NO... WHY WOULD TŌDŌ AND THE OTHERS HA'VE COME TO ATTACK AZUMI-SAN THEN!?

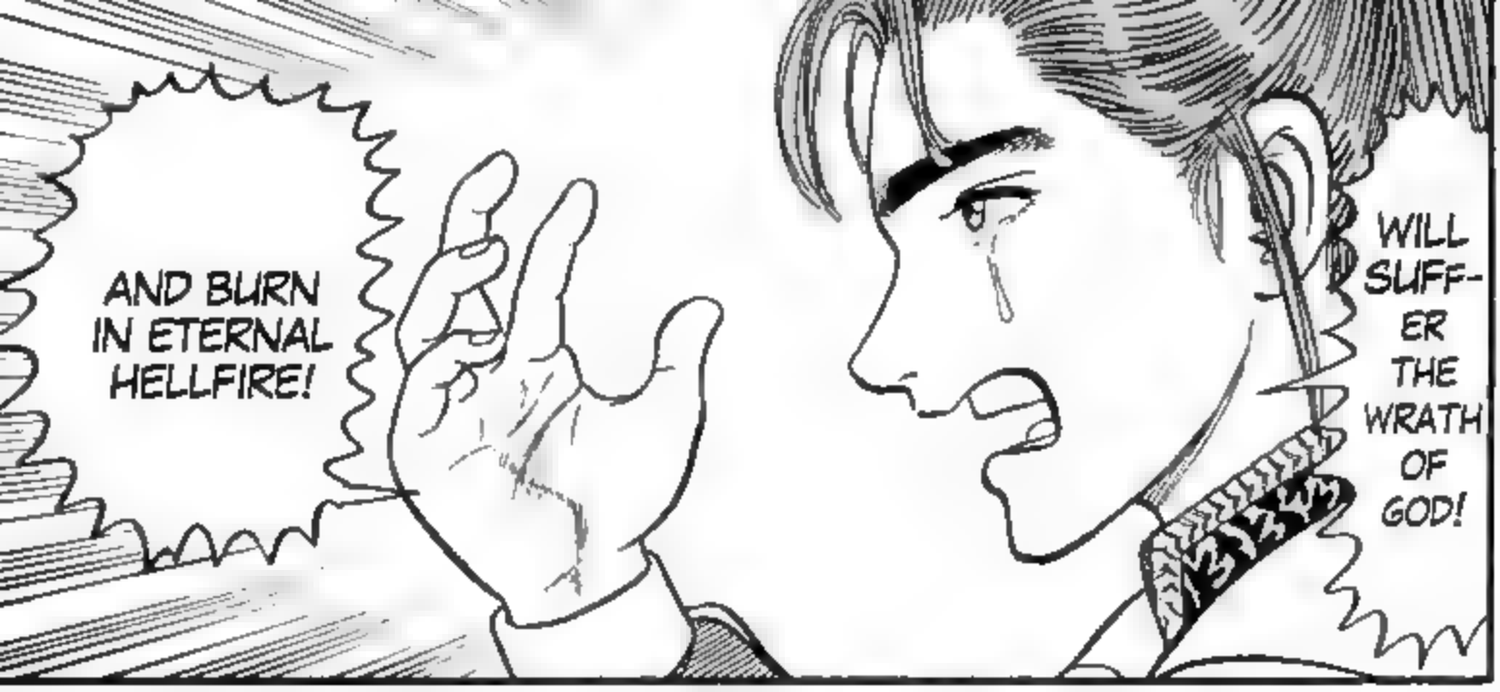
IT IS NOW TIME TO FIGHT!
WEARING THOSE WHITE COATS,
YOU MUST NOT FEAR DEATH!


GOD WATCHES ALL THINGS!
!?


SHALL BE SUMMONED BY GOD AND GO TO HIS HEAVENLY KINGDOM!
THOSE WHO, BRAVELY DEPARTING FOR THIS HOLY WAR, WILL LAY DOWN THEIR LIVES,




OR THOSE WHO FLEE!
THOSE FROZEN WITH THE FEAR OF DEATH,
WH...WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING, SHZIUNE !?
gOO


AND BURN IN ETERNAL HELLFIRE!
WILL SUFF-ER THE WRATH OF GOD!


DEVOTE YOUR-SELVES TO THIS HOLY WAR!!!
GO TO THE CASTLE AT ONCE!
COME NOW!


W...WH...
WHAT...
DID YOU
...


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SH...
SHI..
ZU...
NE...


THAT FACE!
HAH...HAHAHA... AHAHHA...HAHA HAHAHH!


AHAHAH HAHAHA HAHA!
I SO WANTED TO SEE THAT LOOK!


A SMART, YET EVER SO CONCEITED MAN SUCH AS YOU, SHUNJIRŌ ...
WOULD NEVER'VE DREAMED YOU'D BE THE ONE TO BE TRICKED AND USED, HUH?
BUT YOU SHOULD'VE REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT
BEING MANIPULATED BY GENSAI AND THE OTHERS!
AND IN THE END
EVEN ME!


"SHIZUNE LOOKS UP TO ME LIKE HIS ELDER BROTHER."
"HE'LL ACT AS I WISH HIM TO."
THOUGHT LIKE THAT, HUH?


IT WAS THE EXACT OPPOSITE!
AHAHAHA! YOU'RE SO NAIVE, SHUNJIRŌ !


THE ONE DECEIVED AND USED...
WAS YOU! HAHAHAHA!


WAS THE OPPOSITE!
THIS TOO...
PLANNED TO RILE UP THE PEOPLE BY USING MY HUMBLE SELF...HOWEVER,...
EVEN GENSAI AND THE OTHERS WHO WANTED A WAR


.....
WAS ME, YOU KNOW!
THE ONE WHO INSTIGATED AND MANIPULTED THEM
25
MANIPULATED BY ME AND DANCED HOW I WANTED THEM TO!
THEY WERE AAAAAAALL
THE CASTLE SAMURAI, ALL THE PEOPLE AS WELL!
GENSAI, HIS MEN, THE RONIN!
SUCH JOY I FEEL!!


COME NOW!! THE MOST ENJOYABLE FESTIVAL WILL SOON BEGIN!
.....

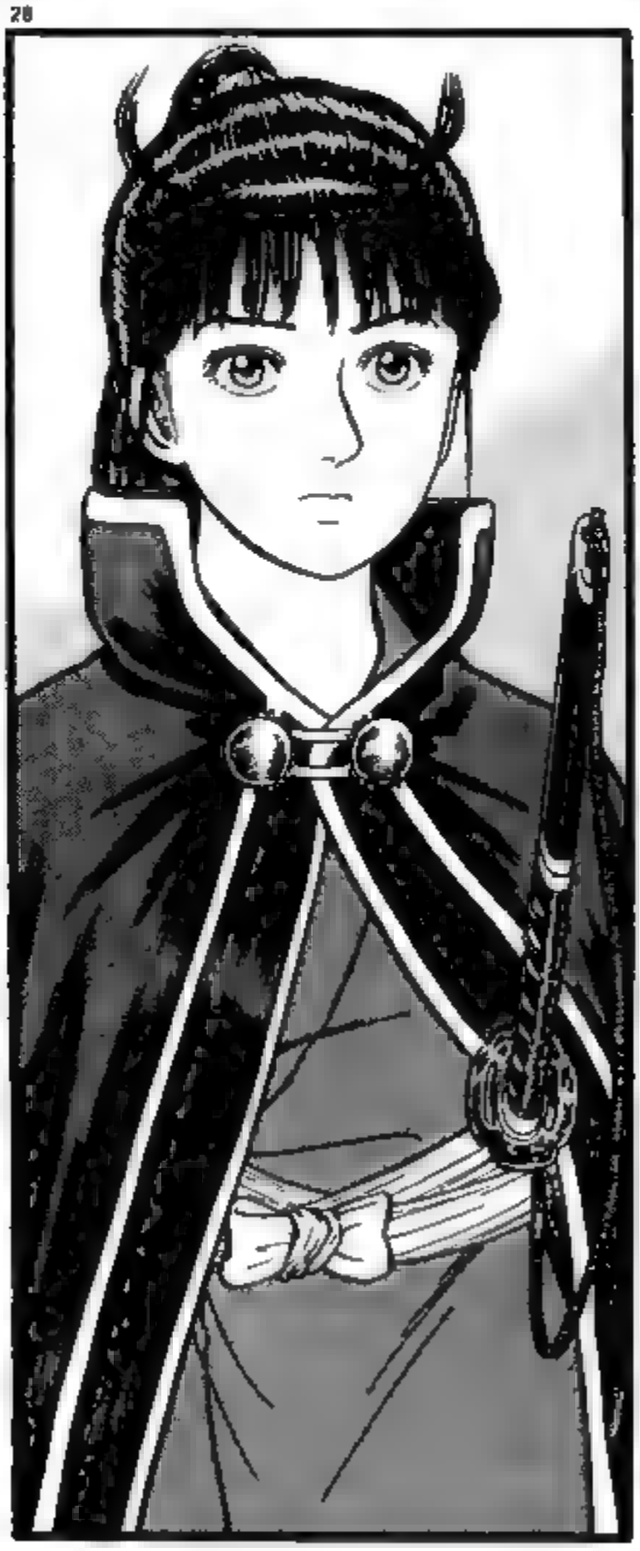

AH!

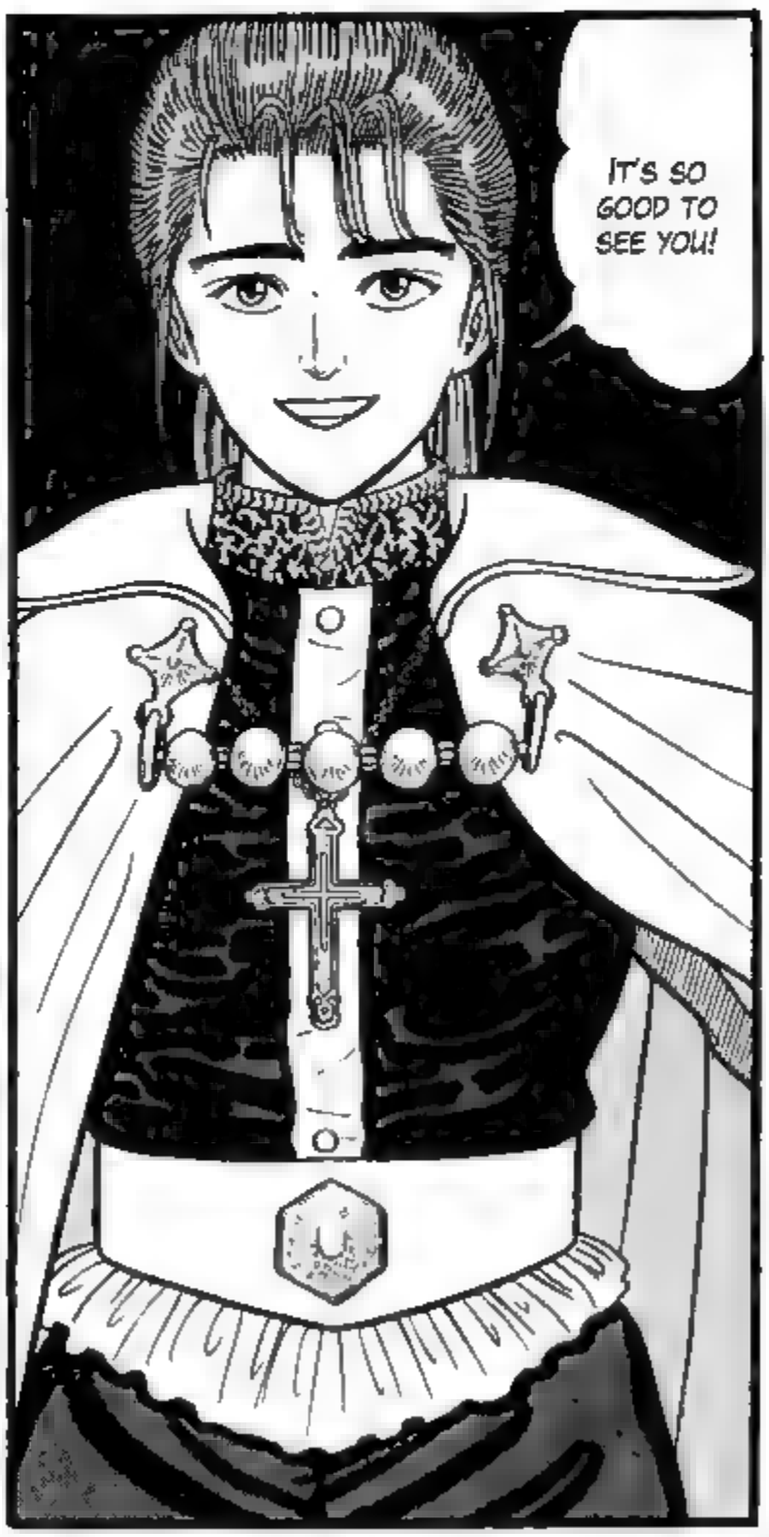

YES.. THANK GOODNESS...
.....
IT LOOKS LIKE YOUR ILLNESS HAS ALREADY IMPROVED..


HAS SHIZUNE-SAMA RETURNED?

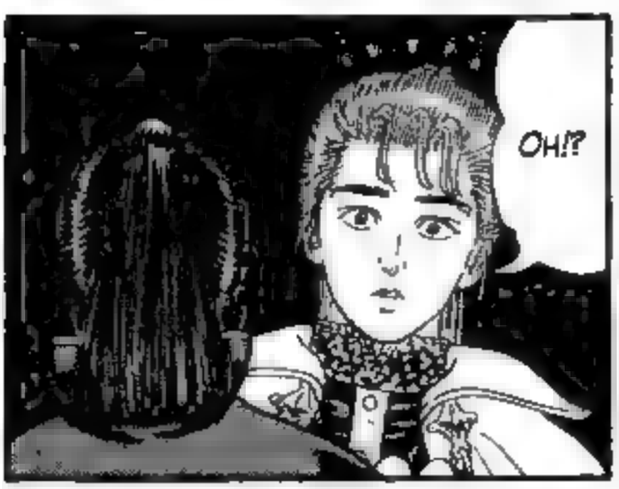


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SHIZUNE-SAMA, SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE PERSUADED THEM TO AVOID RISING TO WAR AT TODAY'S MEETING!?
EVEN THOUGH SO MANY PEOPLE PREPARED FOR BATTLE
AND MARCHED TOWARD THE CASTLE TOWN!

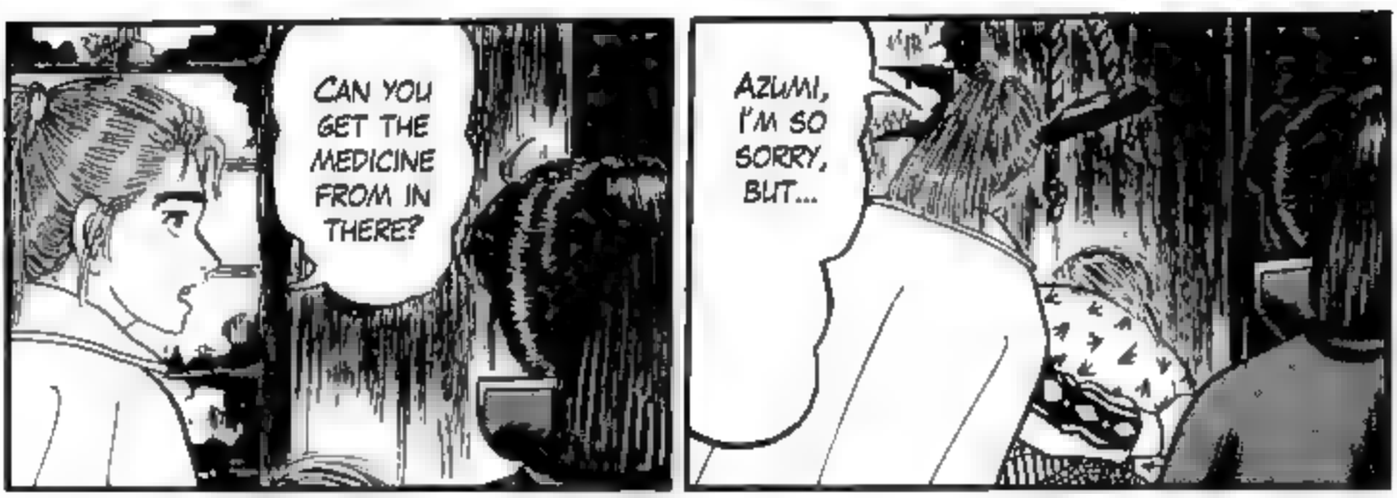

OH!?


HOW TERRIBLY ODD..
A LOT OF PEOPLE READIED FOR BATTLE!?


AS I THOUGHT, YOU HAVEN'T FULLY RECOVERED YET...
WHAT'S WRONG, NAKA!?


DOES IT STILL HURT?
AHH... AHHH HHHH ..

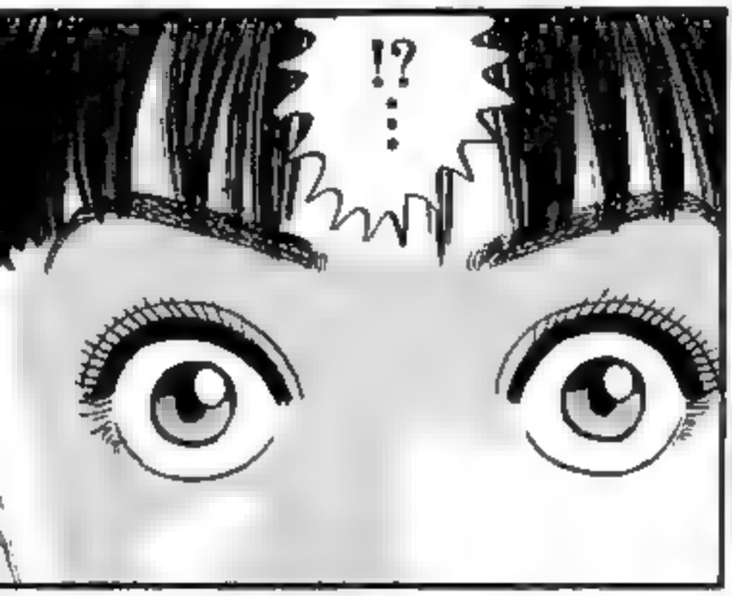

IF SHE TAKES HER MEDICINE, SHE'LL BE FINE RIGHT OFF...
IT'S HER STOMACH.
WHERE DOES IT HURT?


CAN YOU GET THE MEDICINE FROM IN THERE?
AZUMI, I'M SO SORRY, BUT...


WITHIN THAT JAR THERE.
WHERE IS IT?
YES!

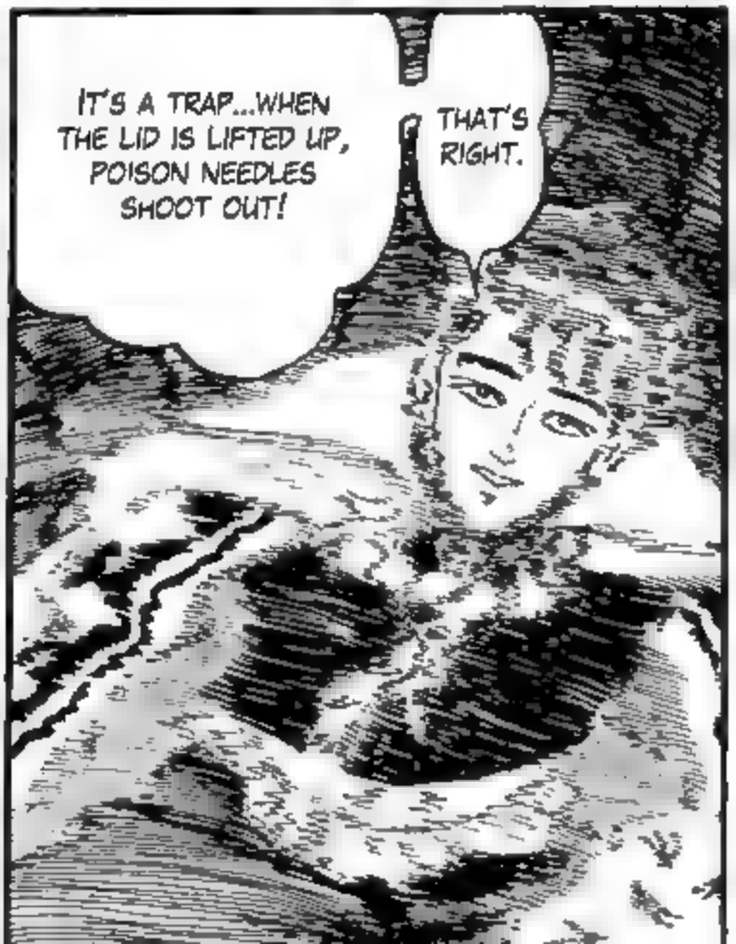

RIGHT INSIDE THERE.
THIS ONE?
!!
YES.
THANK YOU...
IS THIS IT?




!?
...

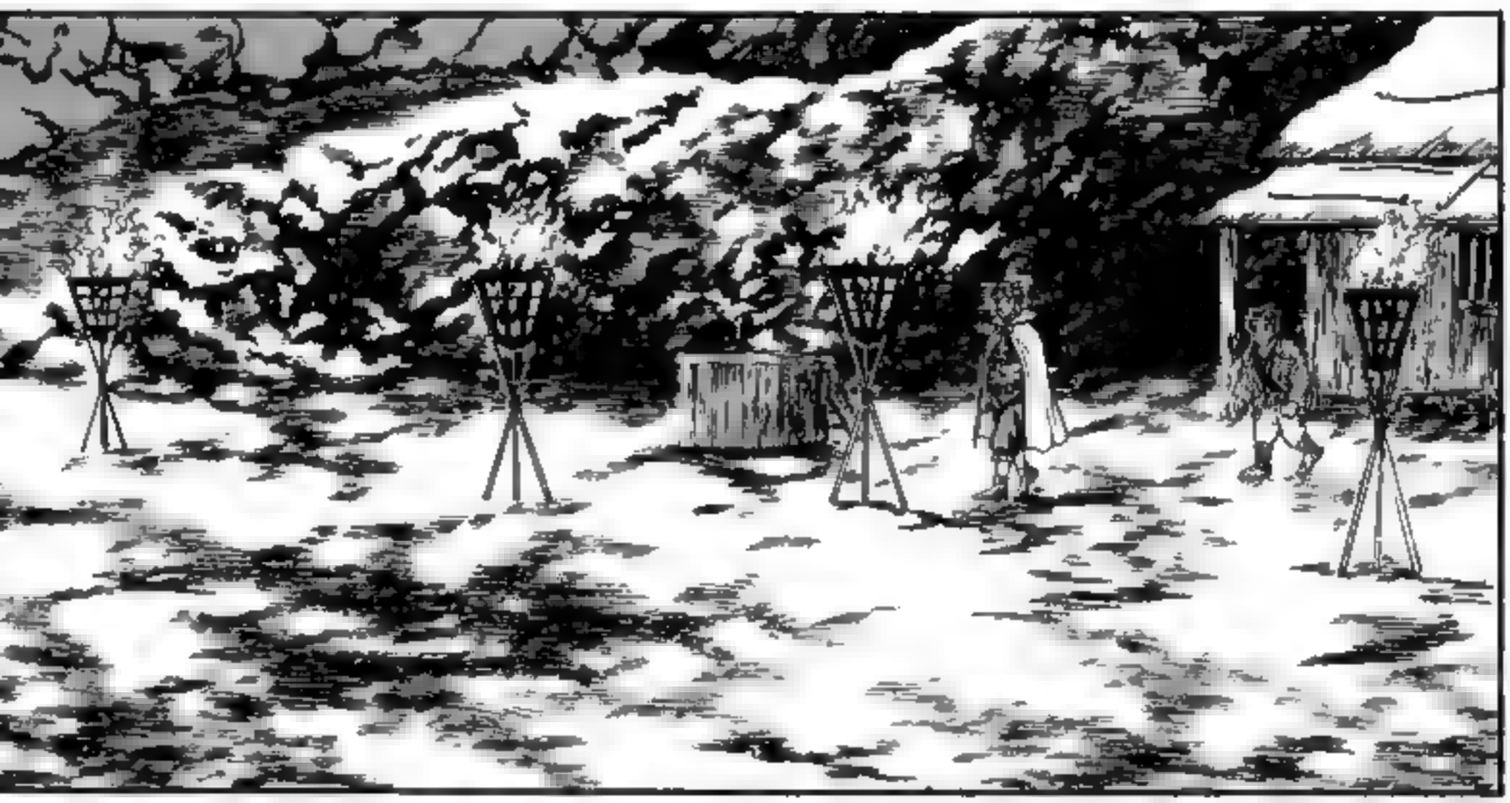



AND YOU FELL INTO IT SO NICELY!


IT'S A TRAP...WHEN THE LID IS LIFTED UP, POISON NEEDLES SHOOT OUT!
THAT'S RIGHT.


COME ON!!!
THE FUN STARTS NOW!!!!
……
ゴクッ…


YES, SIR!
SIR!
YOU CAN BOTH DEPART FOR THE WAR AS WELL!










……


I. .I WAS DECEIVED...SO... SO HE LED ME ABOUT BY... THE NOSE!?
SHIZUNE... SHIZUNE HAS INSTIGATED AND MANIPULATED... GENSAI AND THE OTHERS...

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ALL TO REALIZE AN IDEAL NATION!
WHAT ABOUT ALL MY HARDSHIPS!?
AN IDEAL NATION
THAT I BUILT UP TO THIS POINT!?

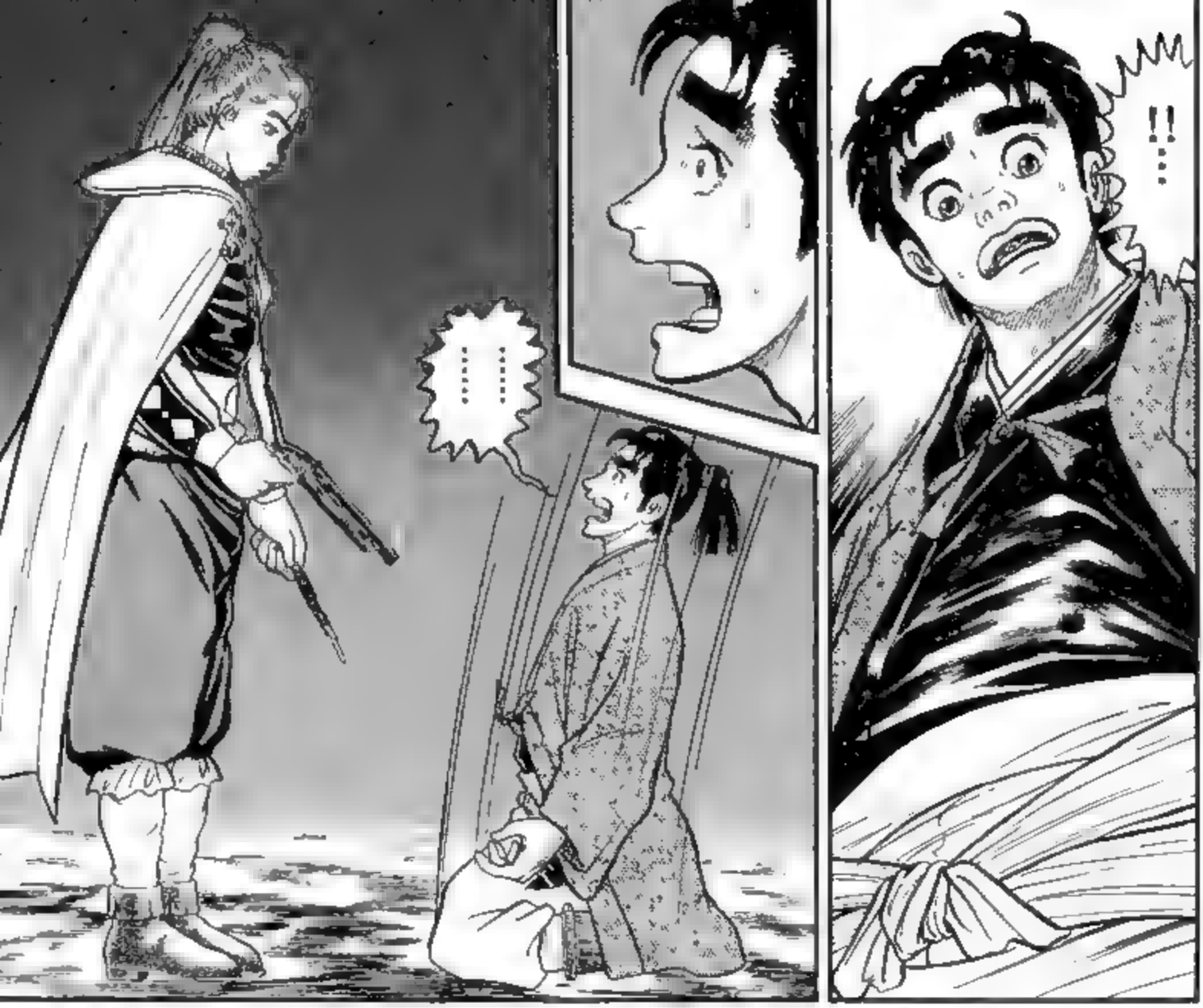

IT'S JUST IMPOSSIBLE!
ABSURD! THAT'S JUST ABSURD!

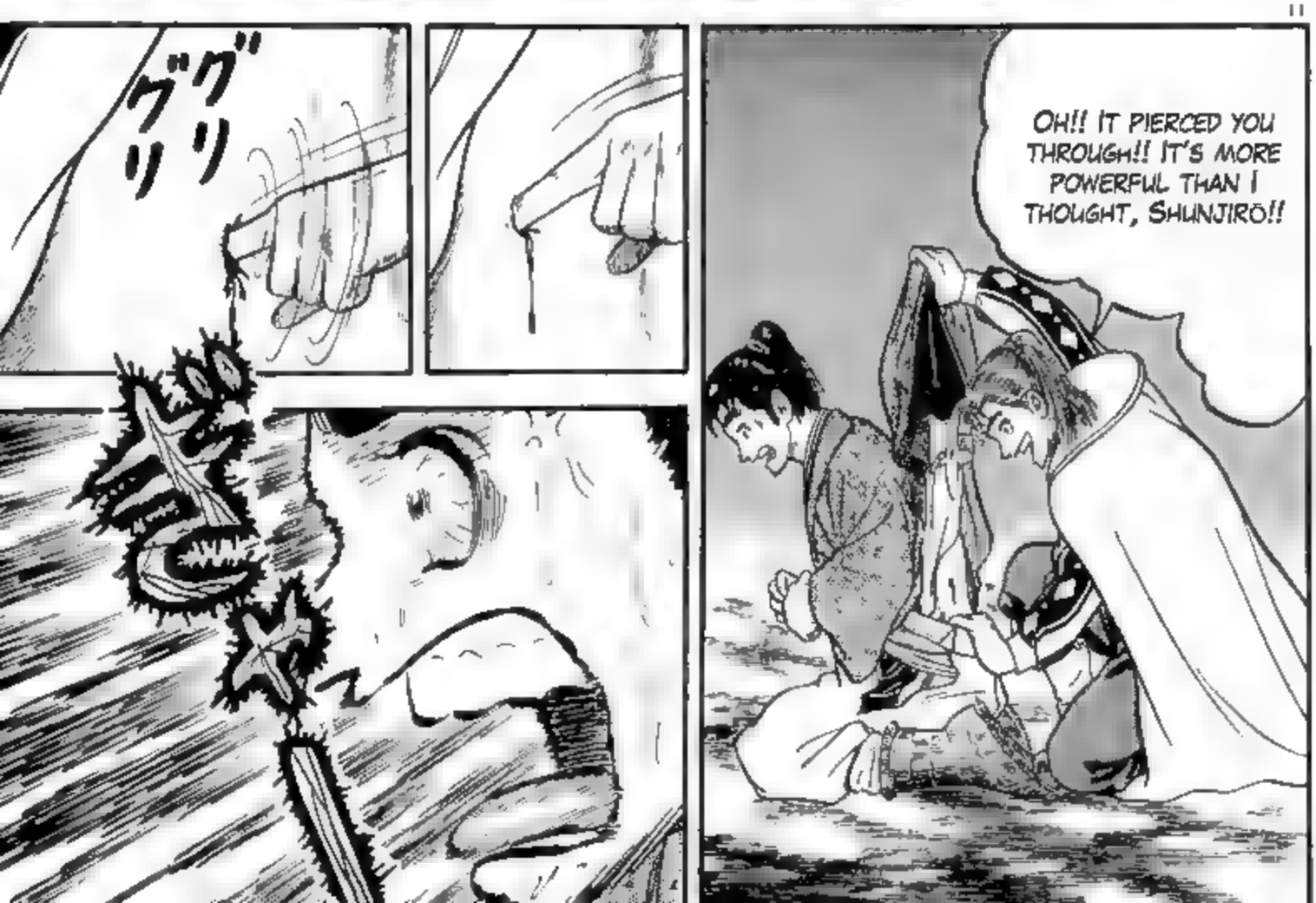

I'M JUST HAVING A NIGHT-MARE!
IT'S A DREAM !!


IT SEEMS THAT IDEAL COUNTRY YOU WERE DREAMING OF IS IN RUINS NOW!
WELL.


YOU'VE OUTLIVED YOUR USEFULNESS AND REASON TO EXIST, MY DEAR SHUNJIRO!
TO ME, GENSAI AND THE OTHERS,


I STUDIED EVER SO HARD AND MADE A THING LIKE THIS!
LOOK!! LOOK HERE!! USING THE METHODS TO MAKE RIFLES THAT YOU TAUGHT ME...
IT CAN FIRE TWO ROUNDS IN SEQUENCE!
AMAZING, IS IT NOT!?
!!
AAAHHH HHHHHH HHHHH!


!!...
.....

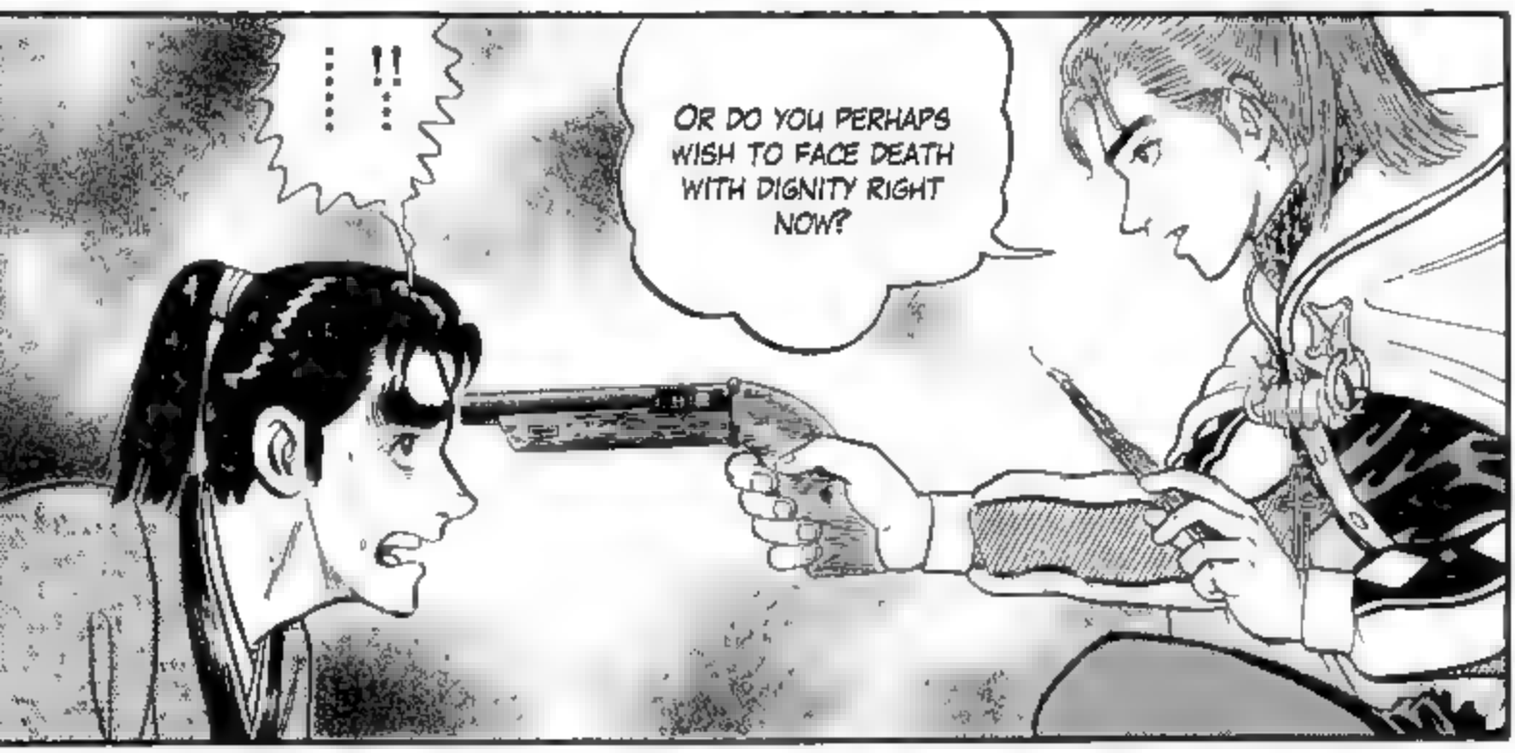

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OH!! IT PIERCED YOU THROUGH!! IT'S MORE POWERFUL THAN I THOUGHT, SHUNJIRŌ!!


S-STOOOP !!!!
Gyaaah!


AAAH HA HA HA HA HA HA, DOES IT HURT SO MUCH!?

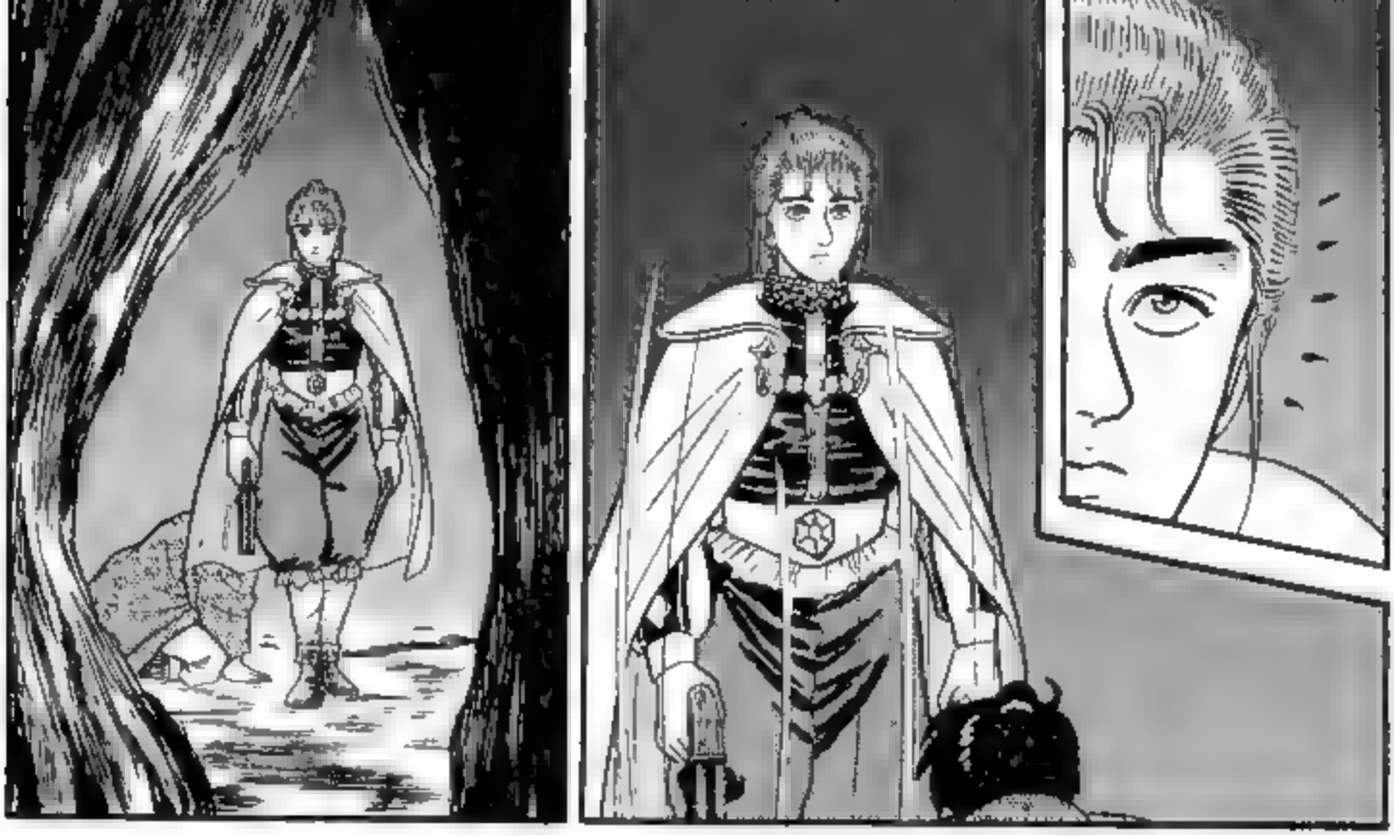

HE EVEN HAD ME FOOLED!
SO THESE ARE SHIZUNE'S TRUE COLORS...

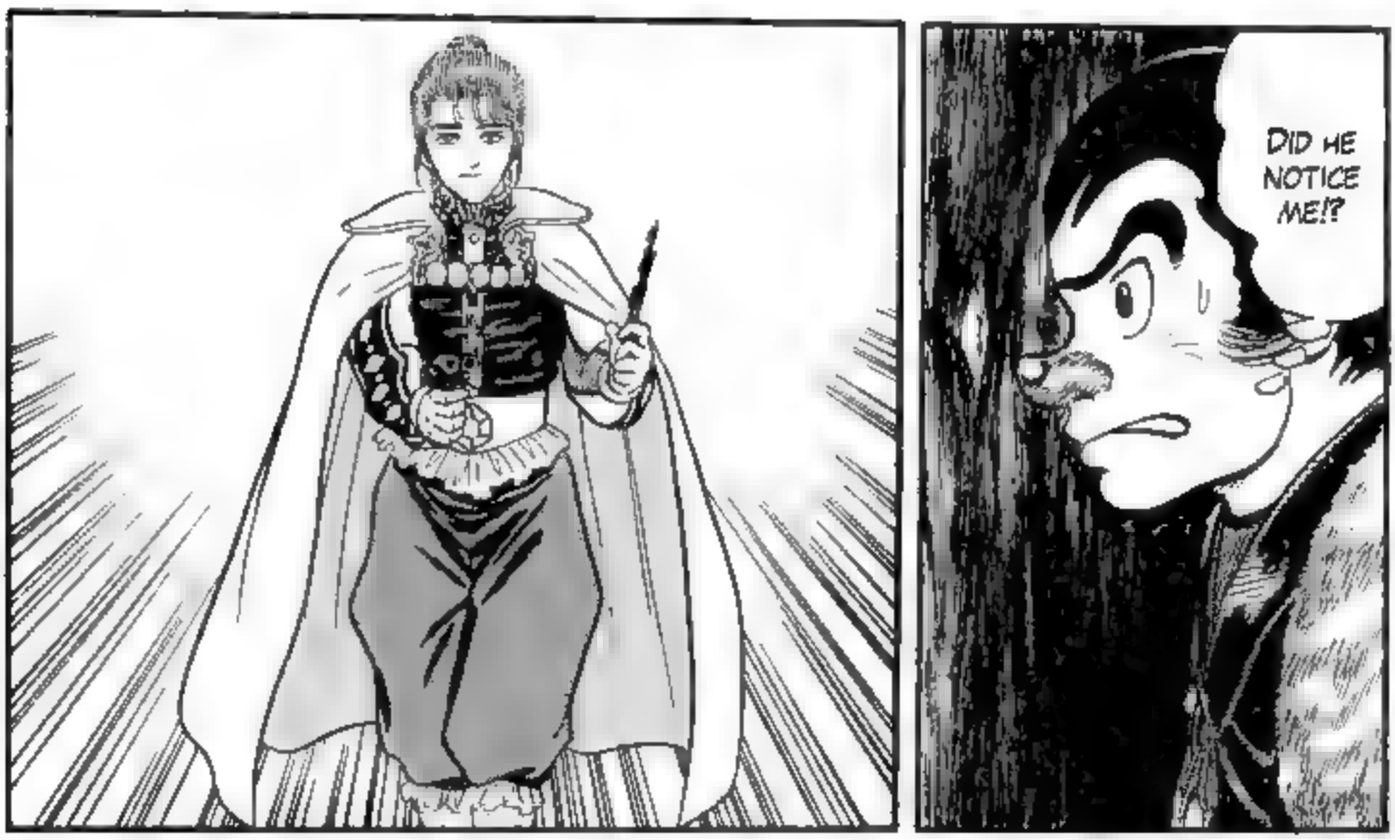

YOUR DEATH BY THE SKIN OF YOUR TEETH?
OR WILL YOU ESCAPE
LINGER AND SUFFER WHILE DYING A LONG, SLOW DEATH!?
JUST WHAT WILL YOU DO!?
THERE'S A HOLE OPEN IN YOUR BELLY!


!!
OR DO YOU PERHAPS WISH TO FACE DEATH WITH DIGNITY RIGHT NOW?


HMM !?

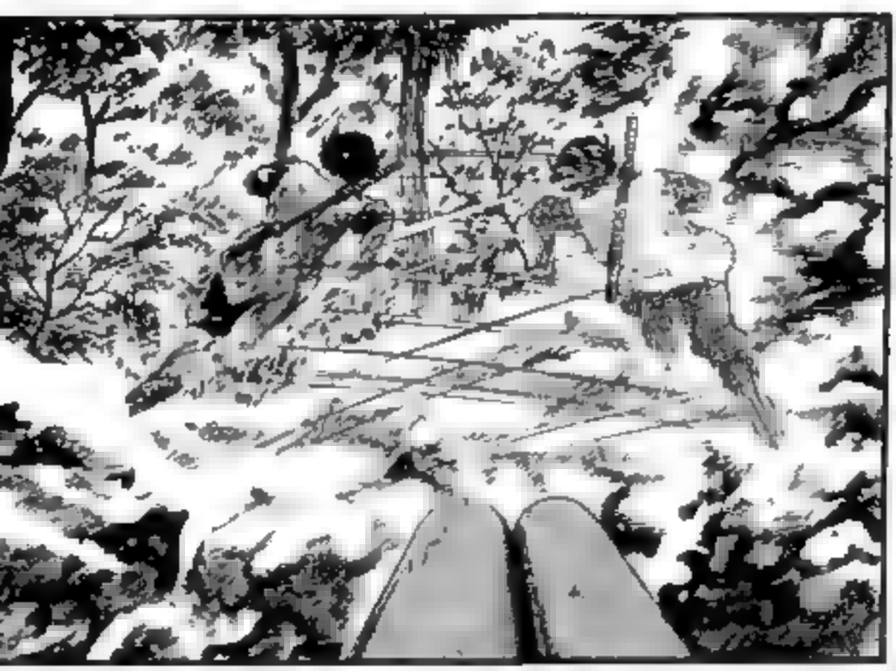





DID HE NOTICE ME!?














SO, YOU'RE AWAKE...


.....
ME, TOO! EVERYTHING HAS GONE JUST SO ACCORDING TO PLAN!
YOU SUCCEEDED !?
!!
I'VE CAUGHT AZUMI!
LOOK!
I SEE!
THEY'RE TWINS!





Wahahahahahaha


わーはははははっはっはっは


I MADE SURE THE CASTLE SAMURAI SECURED PLENTY OF GUNS AS WELL!
GENSAI AND HIS MEN AND THE CASTLE SAMURAI... THEY'RE PROBABLY IN THE MIDDLE OF A DESPERATE STRATEGY MEETING.
THIS'LL SURELY BE A FLASHY WAR!

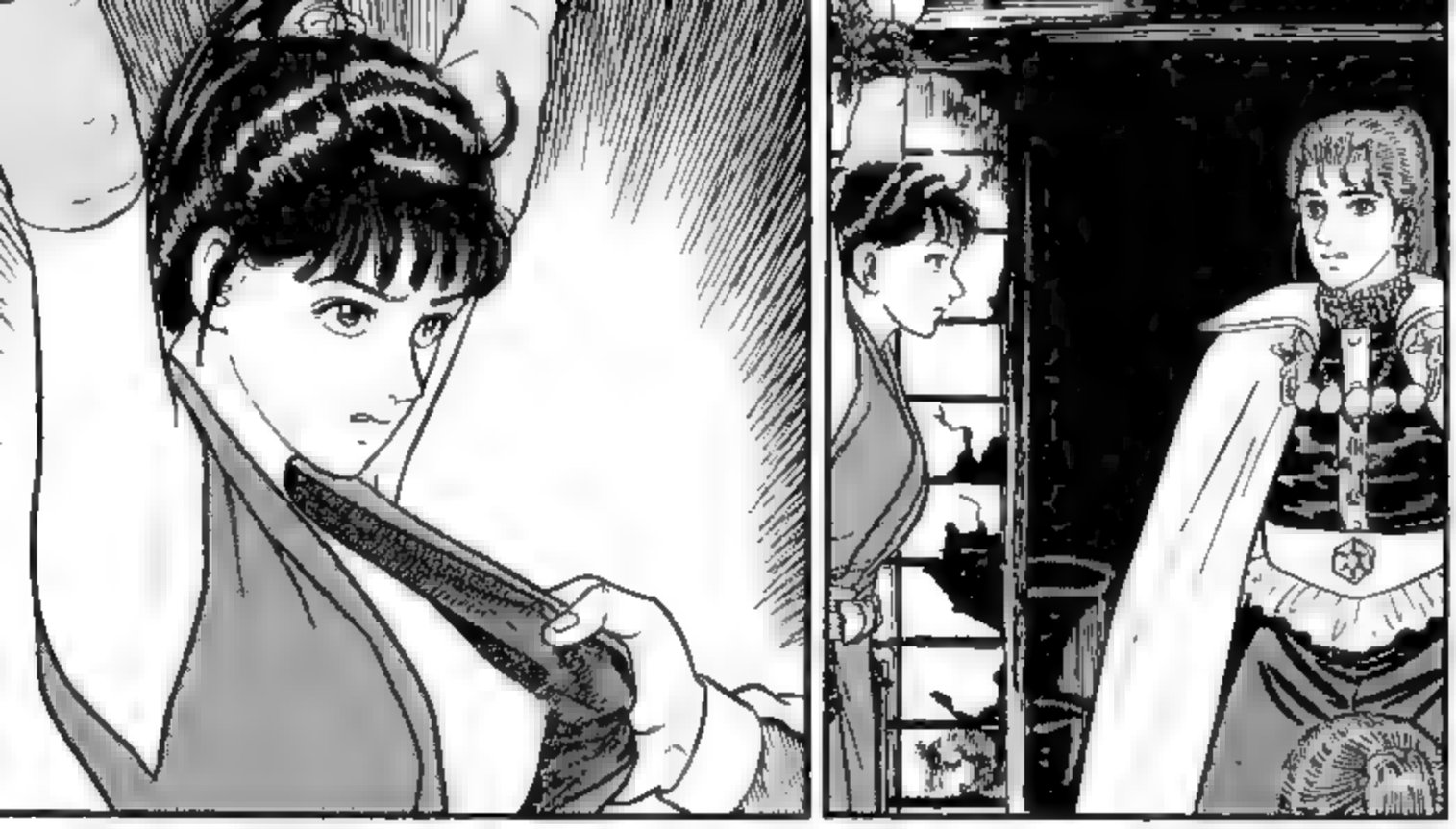

M-MY... GOD...

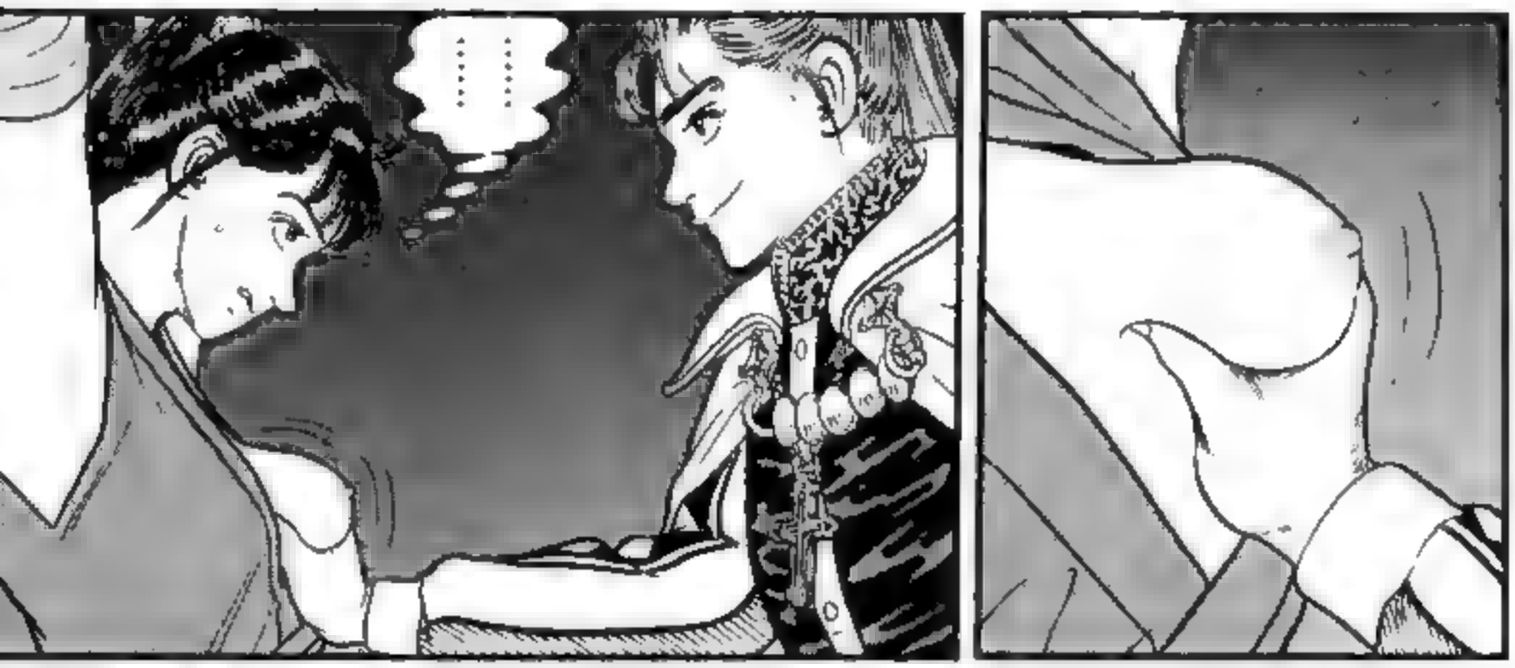

I DIDN'T SEE THROUGH GENSAI AND HIS MEN...THEIR TRUE SELVES AS WELL...I'VE BEEN DECEIVED AGAIN AND AGAIN...
I WAS STUPID...WHY DIDN'T I SEE THROUGH SHIZUNE'S TRUE INTENTIONS!?
WHAT A FOOL! WHAT AN ABSOLUTE IDIOT I AM!


GUYS ...
GRAMPA ...
YOU CAN DO IT! I HAVE GREAT EXPECTATIONS FOR YOU, AZUMI!
IF IT APPEARS THAT IN THAT FIEF, A REVOLT IS BREWING, I WANT YOU TO PREVENT IT!!
I WAS NO GOOD...I COULDN'T LIVE UP TO TENKAI-SAMA'S EXPECTATIONS...


WE WANT TO POSSESS YOU AT ALL COSTS!
WE'VE BEEN FASCINATED BY YOU SINCE WE FIRST LAID EYES ON YOU!
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO WITH ME?


AZUMI... YOU'RE SUCH A LOVELY WOMAN...
.....
MEN OUT THERE... THEY DO SUCH THINGS, DO THEY NOT?
LIKE WILD BEASTS!




.....


THEY SAY THAT IN SATISFACTION... DON'T THEY.. AZUMI...?
SO GOOD!
AHH...
AH.


AHHA HAH HAHA HAH!
AHH! SO GOOOOOD! MOORE!
DON'T WOMEN SAY THINGS LIKE THAT!?
WHILE SAYING "NO, NO," RIGHT!?


THE MEN GO
HAA HAAA
WITH A DUMB LOOK!
OOHH!
OOOOH!
AND THE WOMEN GO IIIH IIIIH!!!!


IT'S WHAT BEASTS DO...
WE CAN'T UNDERSTAND AT ALL WHY MEN AND WOMEN DO STUPID ACTS LIKE THAT...
WE'VE DECIDED TO DO SOMETHING TO YOU THAT'S FAR MORE REFINED!
WE'RE NOT SO VULGAR AS THAT!
WE'L TRAIN YOU UNTIL YOU'RE HUMAN LIVESTOCK!
IN OTHER WORDS,
WE'LL MAKE A CLEVER AND STRONG WOMAN LIKE YOU...INTO A SERVANT WHO DOES WHAT WE SAY....
SOME-THING... MORE... REF-INED?

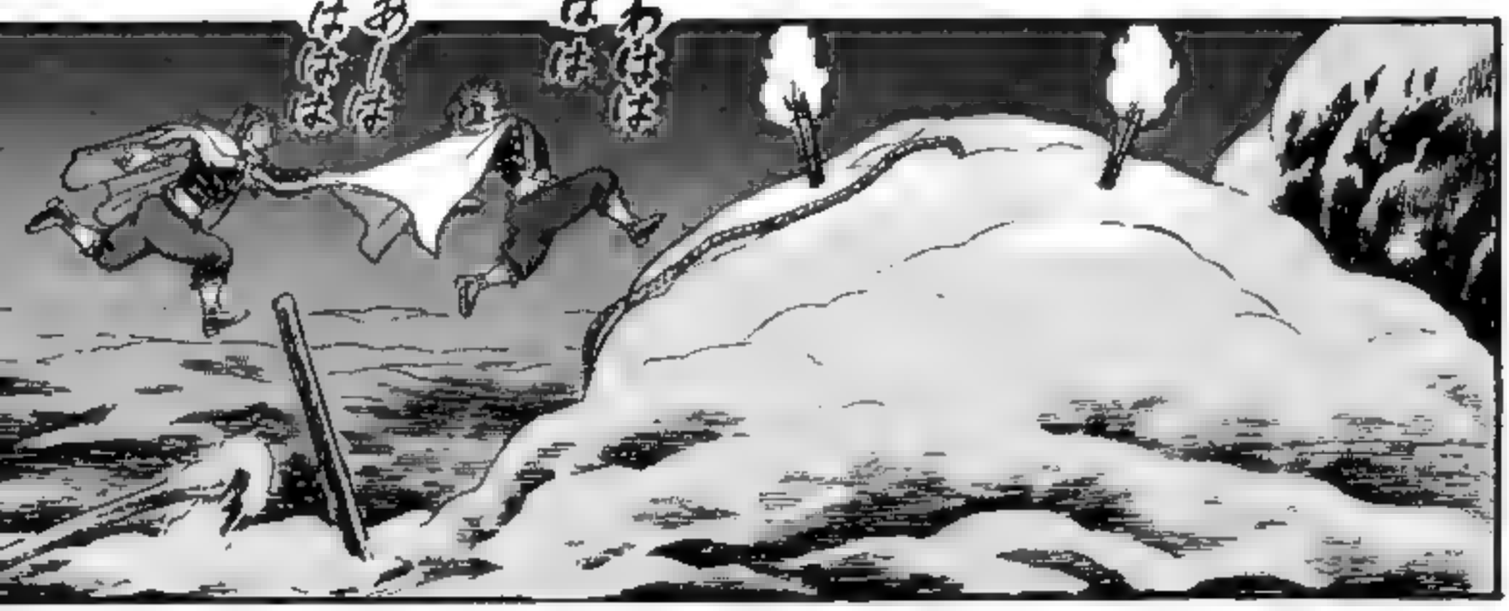

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IF SHE HITS A ROCK, SHE'LL DIE!
HEY, NOW! IS THIS A GOOD IDEA!?
WAHAHAHA! SINCE IT'S DARK, IT'S HARD TO TELL!
WAHAH HAHAH!
IF SHE DIES, WE CAN'T PLAY WITH HER ANYMORE!
OHHH, SHE'S FINE! SHE FELL INTO THE RIVER, JUST LIKE WE WANTED!


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WAHAHAHA! LOOK AT HER SQUIRM!
パン パン
パン パン

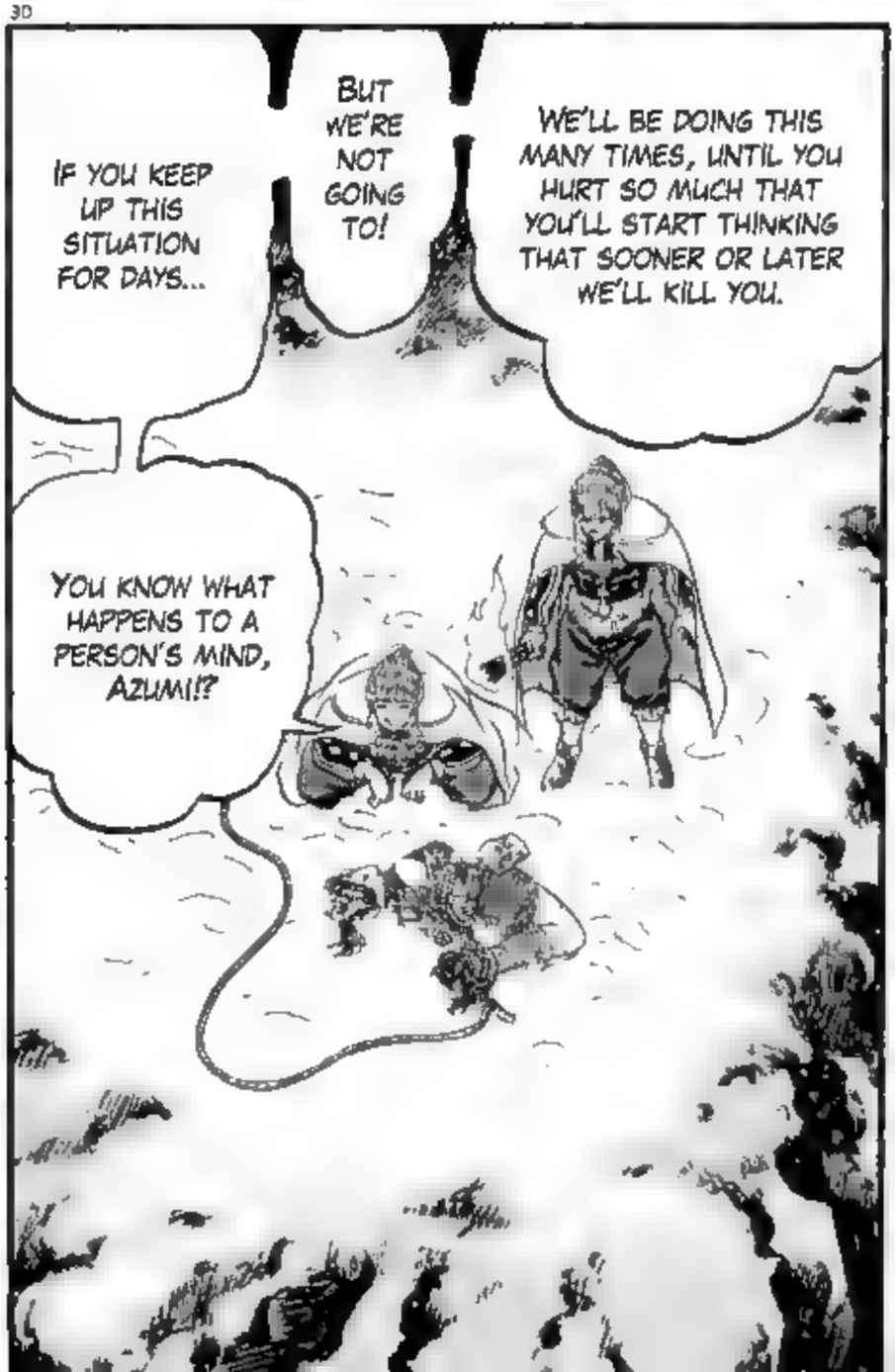

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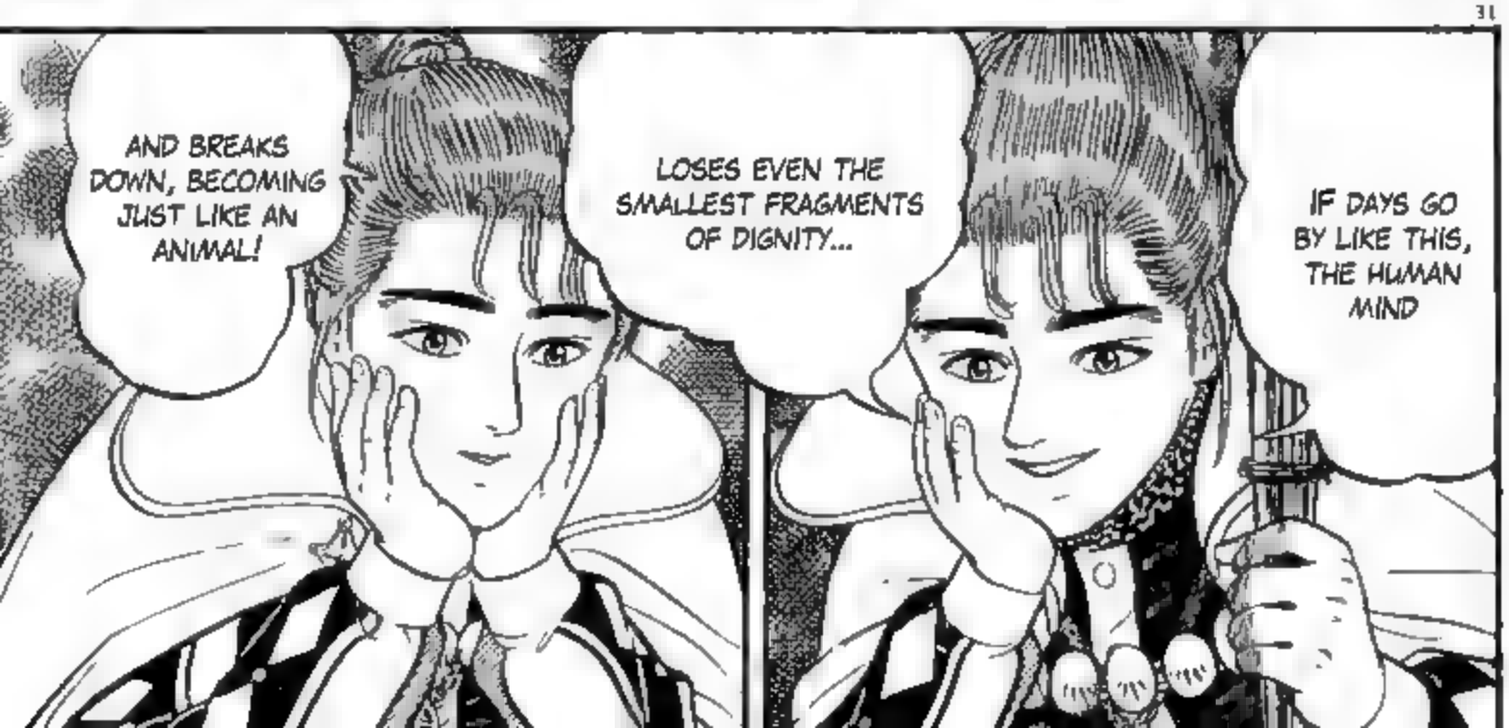



IF YOU KEEP UP THIS SITUATION FOR DAYS...
BUT WE'RE NOT GOING TO!
WE'LL BE DOING THIS MANY TIMES, UNTIL YOU HURT SO MUCH THAT YOU'LL START THINKING THAT SOONER OR LATER WE'LL KILL YOU.
YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO A PERSON'S MIND, AZUMI!?




THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF YOUR TRAINING TO CHANGE INTO HUMAN LIVESTOCK.


YOU'LL DEFECATE AND URINATE IN A SLOVENLY MANNER!
NOT USING YOUR HANDS, JUST LIKE AN ANIMAL!
AND YOU'LL ONLY EAT WITH YOUR MOUTH,
WE'LL GIVE YOU ONLY ENOUGH FOOD TO SURVIVE!


AND BREAKS DOWN, BECOMING JUST LIKE AN ANIMAL!
LOSES EVEN THE SMALLEST FRAGMENTS OF DIGNITY...
IF DAYS GO BY LIKE THIS, THE HUMAN MIND


AZUMI, I GUESS YOU SHOULD BE THINKING BY NOW THAT NO MATTER HOW MANY DAYS PASS, YOU WON'T EVER BECOME AN ANIMAL, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
WELL, YOU'RE WRONG!
NO MATTER WHO IT IS, THE HUMAN MIND
IS SOMETHING THAT CAN BE MANIPULATED, CHANGED AND BROKEN BY ANOTHER ONE.
WITHOUT FAIL..
ブルブル
ブルブル
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THE PAIN WE GIVE HER, EH...?
YES...YOU MAY BE RIGHT!
BECAUSE AZUMI IS A WOMAN WITH A STRONG WILL, I THINK THAT SHE COULD ENDURE THE PAIN WE GIVE HER UNTIL THE END.

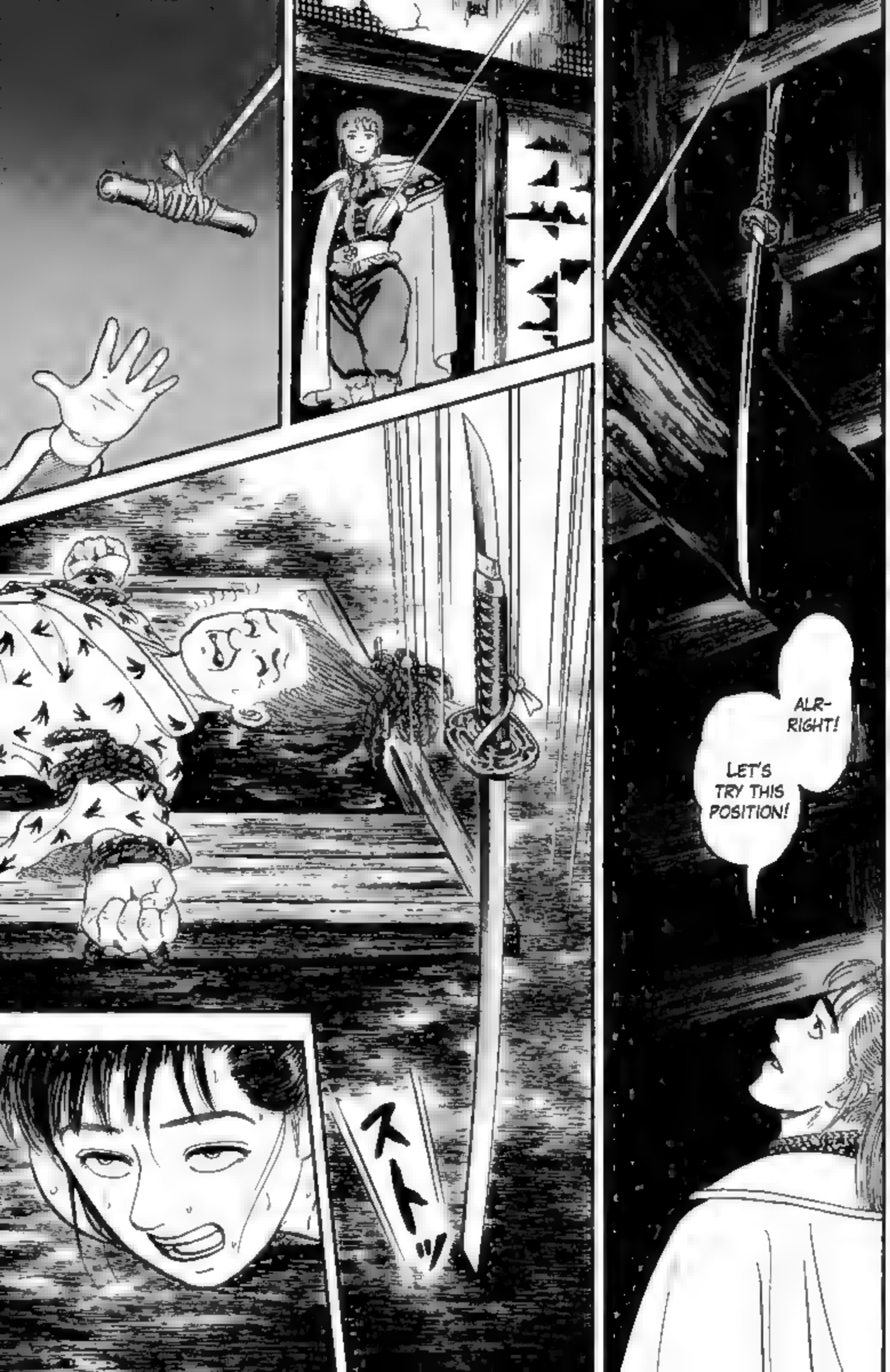

YES...
SO WE SHOULD GIVE HER PAIN INVOLVING SOMEONE ELSE BESIDES US, RIGHT ..?


.....


WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS!?




SHIZUNE-SAMA! TADANE-SAMA!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
SOUNDS FUN! LET'S DO IT!
WH-WHAT ARE THEY PLANNING TO DO!?


ALR-
RIGHT!
LET'S
TRY THIS
POSITION!
ストッ


WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? PLEASE STOP THIS AT ONCE!
IT'S FINE HERE! IT'LL PIERCE RIGHT THROUGH THE THROAT!


WHAT ARE YOU THINKING !?
ISN'T SHE THE WET NURSE WHO RAISED YOU!?


WELL, YOU'RE GONNA TAKE CARE OF US FROM NOW ON IN NAKA'S STEAD, RIGHT AZUMI?
SO, WE DON'T NEED HER ANYMORE!


S-STOP!
COME NOW!! WILL YOU BE ABLE TO HOLD IT IN YOUR MOUTH ALL TROUGHOUT THE NIGHT!?


IF YOU DON'T TAKE THIS IN YOUR MOUTH, I'LL LET GO RIGHT NOW!






DON'T!


COME ON! IT'S THE START OF A LOOOOONG AND PAAAINFUL NIGHT!
AH HA HA HA HA, IF YOU LET GO, YOUR KATANA WILL PIERCE NAKA'S THROAT!!


I THINK THIS IS A REALLY GOOD IDEA!
IF AZUMI LETS GO, THEN NAKA DIES!
THAT COULD MAKE HER MIND COLLAPSE EVEN MORE!
WHICH COULD MAKE FOR A SITUATION WHERE SHE'S EASIER TO TRAIN!
FOR MERCY'S SAKE!
SHI-ZUNE-SAMA!
TADA-NE-SAMA!



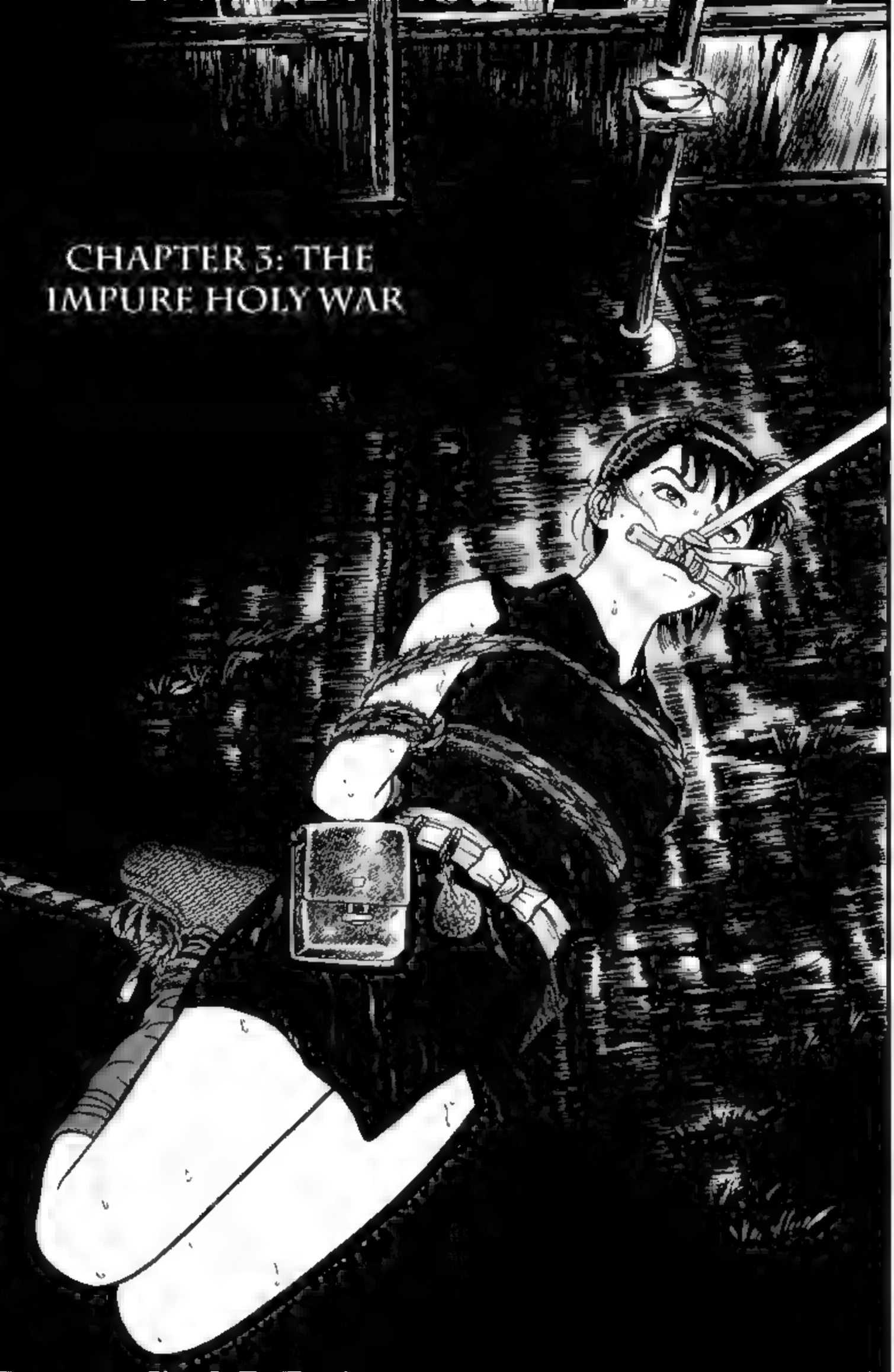
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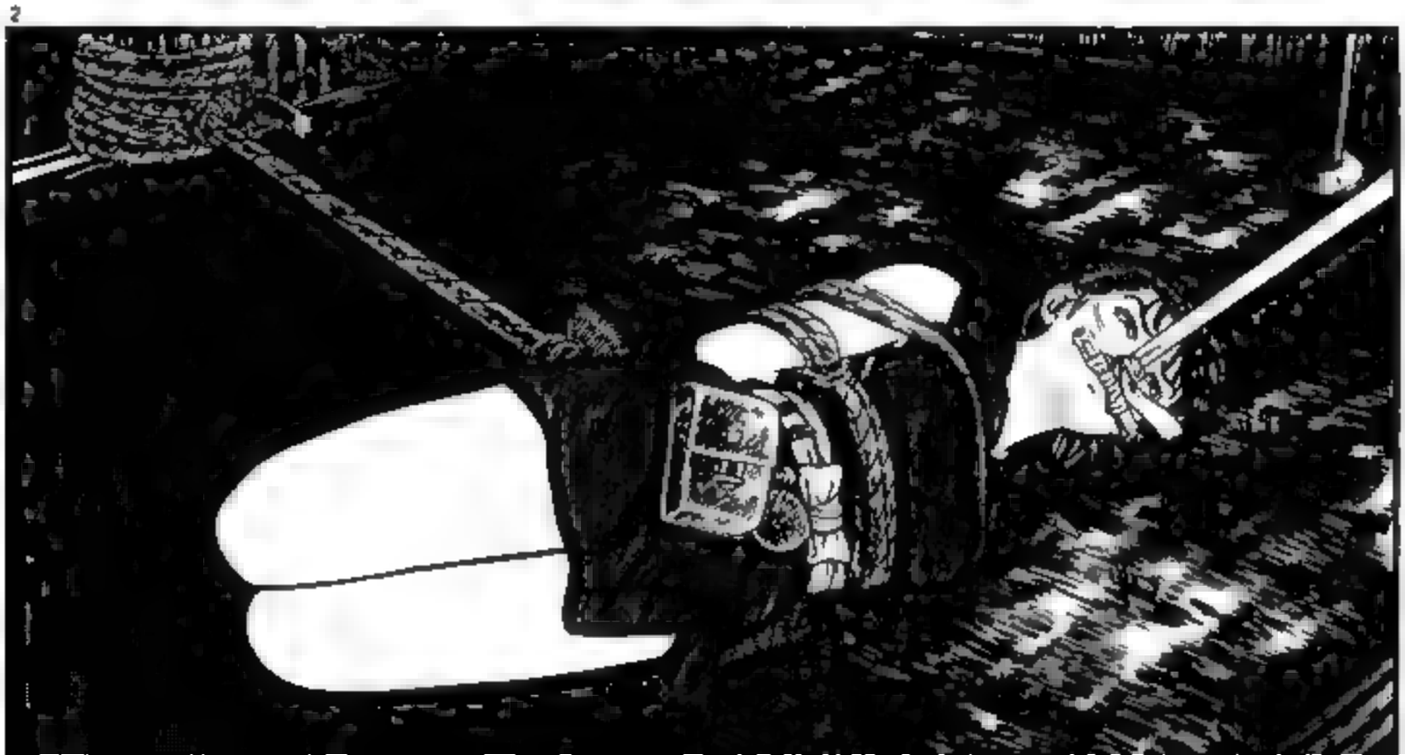

CHAPTER 2:
WARPED
DESIRE

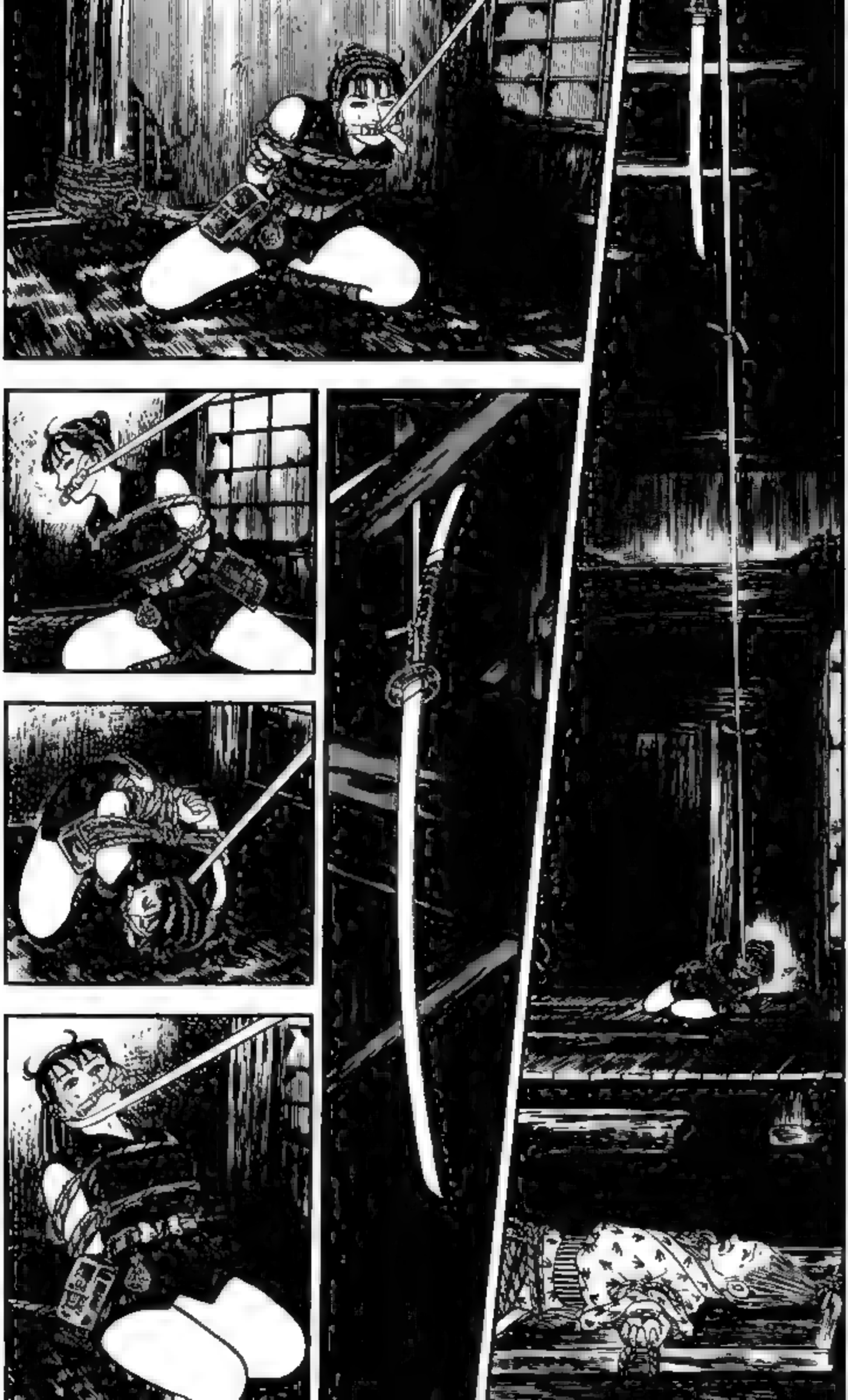

CHAPTER 3: THE
IMPURE HOLY WAR



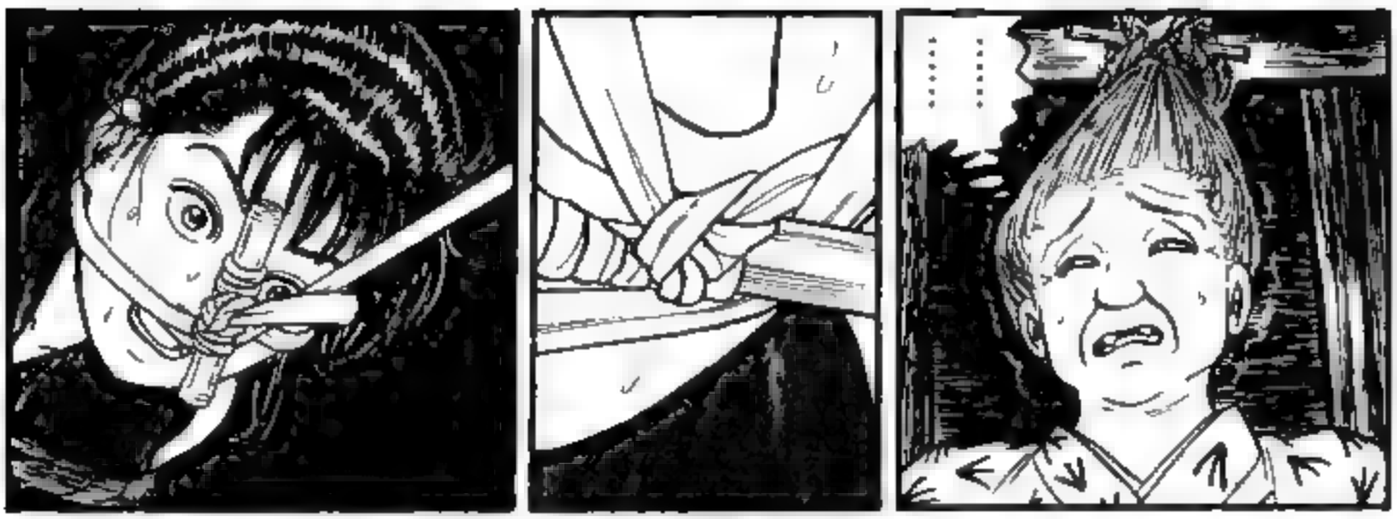


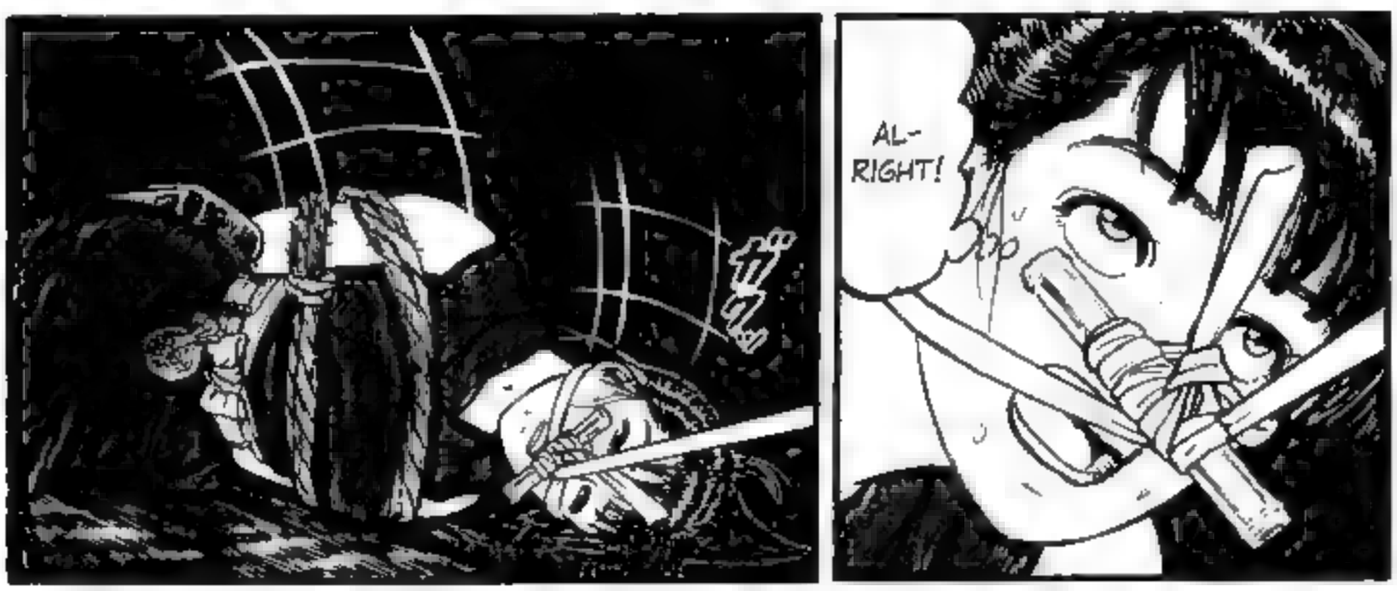
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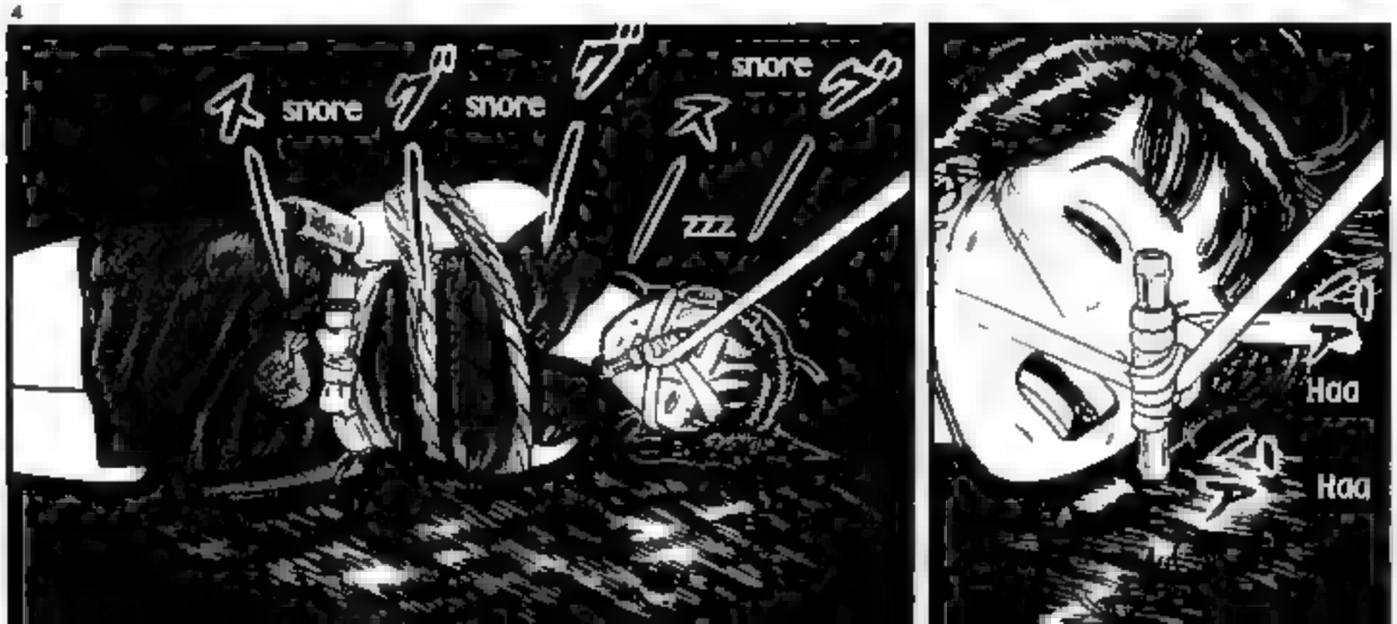





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AL-
RIGHT!


snore
snore
snore
zzz
Haa
Haa

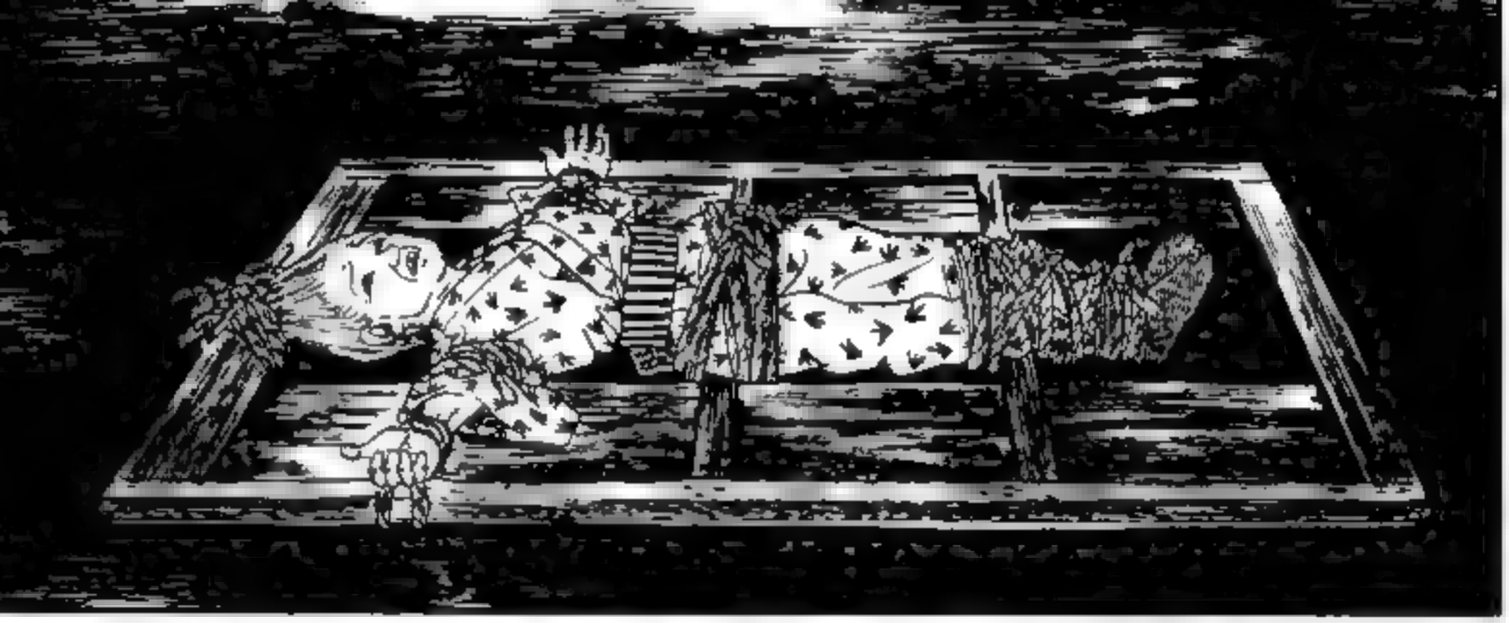



!!
...


IF I'D BEEN WOKEN BY THEM...
THANK GOOD-NESS...
..
ARE THEY STILL ASLEEP?
NIGHT'S BECOME DAWN NOW...


YAAAAWN!


YOU'VE BEEN HOLDING IT IN YOUR MOUTH ALL NIGHT LONG!
YOU'RE AMAZING, AZUMI!
WELL, GUESS THAT MEANS NAKA IS STILL ALIVE!




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WHAT A SUR-PRISE!
WHAT WILL POWER!! TO HAVE A SLEEPLESS NIGHT IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE LIFE OF A COMPLETE STRANGER...

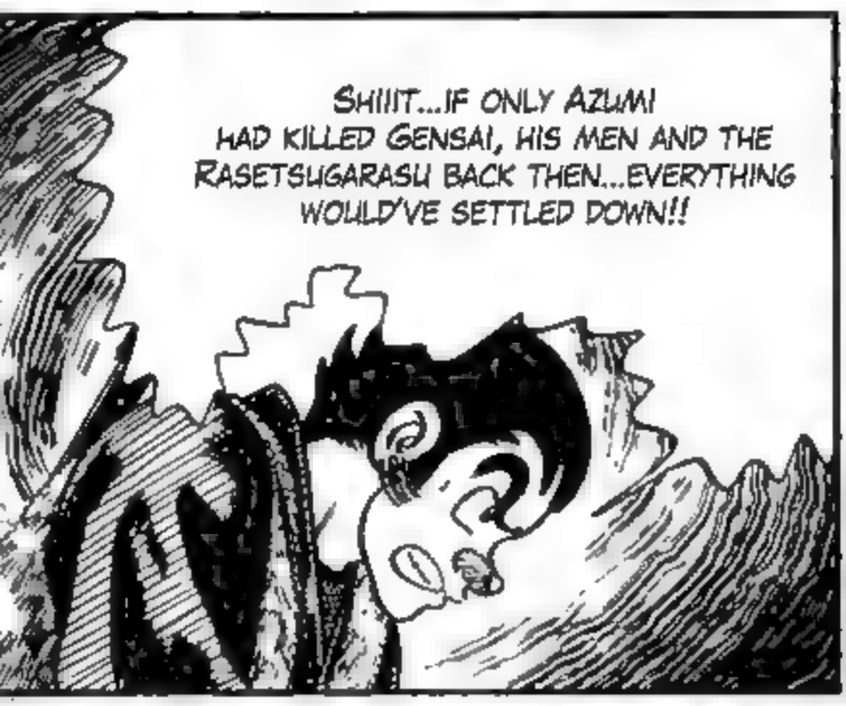

WILL SURELY BE A GAME WORTH PLAYING!
UNTIL THEY BECOME NOTHING BUT HUMAN LIVESTOCK
TRAINING A PERSON WITH SUCH WILL-POWER
THIS IS GONNA BE ALL THE MORE FUN!
INCREDIBLE, AZUMI! SO IMPRESSIVE!
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パチ

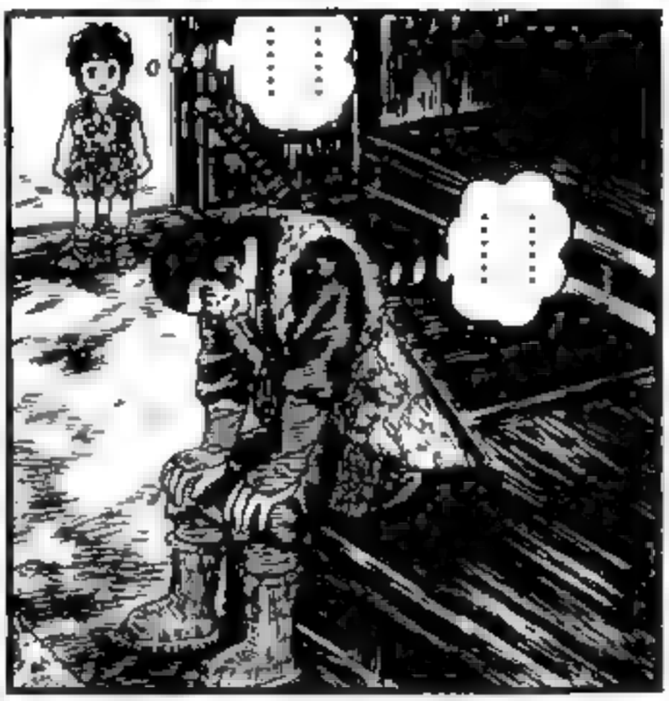

SHE'S BEEN OUT SINCE LAST NIGHT.
AZUMI-NEECHAN HERE!?
WHAT ABOUT YOUR FAMILY?
GA-CCHI.
DID THEY GO OFF TO WAR?


YOU CHILDREN, IN ORDER TO NOT GET CAUGHT UP IN IT ARE HIDING SOMEWHERE, RIGHT?
I SEE! THAT'S GOOD...
FATHER HAS A BROKEN LEG AND HE CAN'T FIGHT!


.....
WE'RE GONNA SEE ALL THOSE ROTTEN CASTLE SAMURAI WIPED OUT!
NO WAY! THIS'S A CRUSADE! A HOLY WAR!

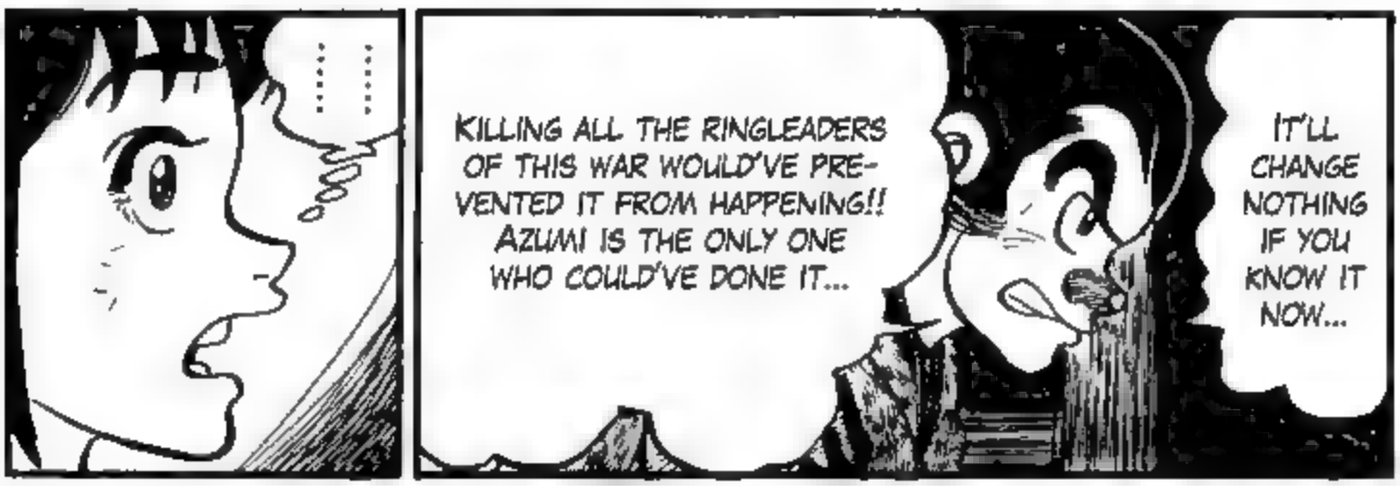

LISTEN WELL!
SOMETHING LIKE A "HOLY" WAR DOESN'T EVEN EXIST!
WARS ARE WRETCHED AND BRUTAL...
THEY'RE FILTHY THINGS!
YOU SHOULDN'T SEE THIS! CHILDREN SHOULD REMAIN HIDDEN!

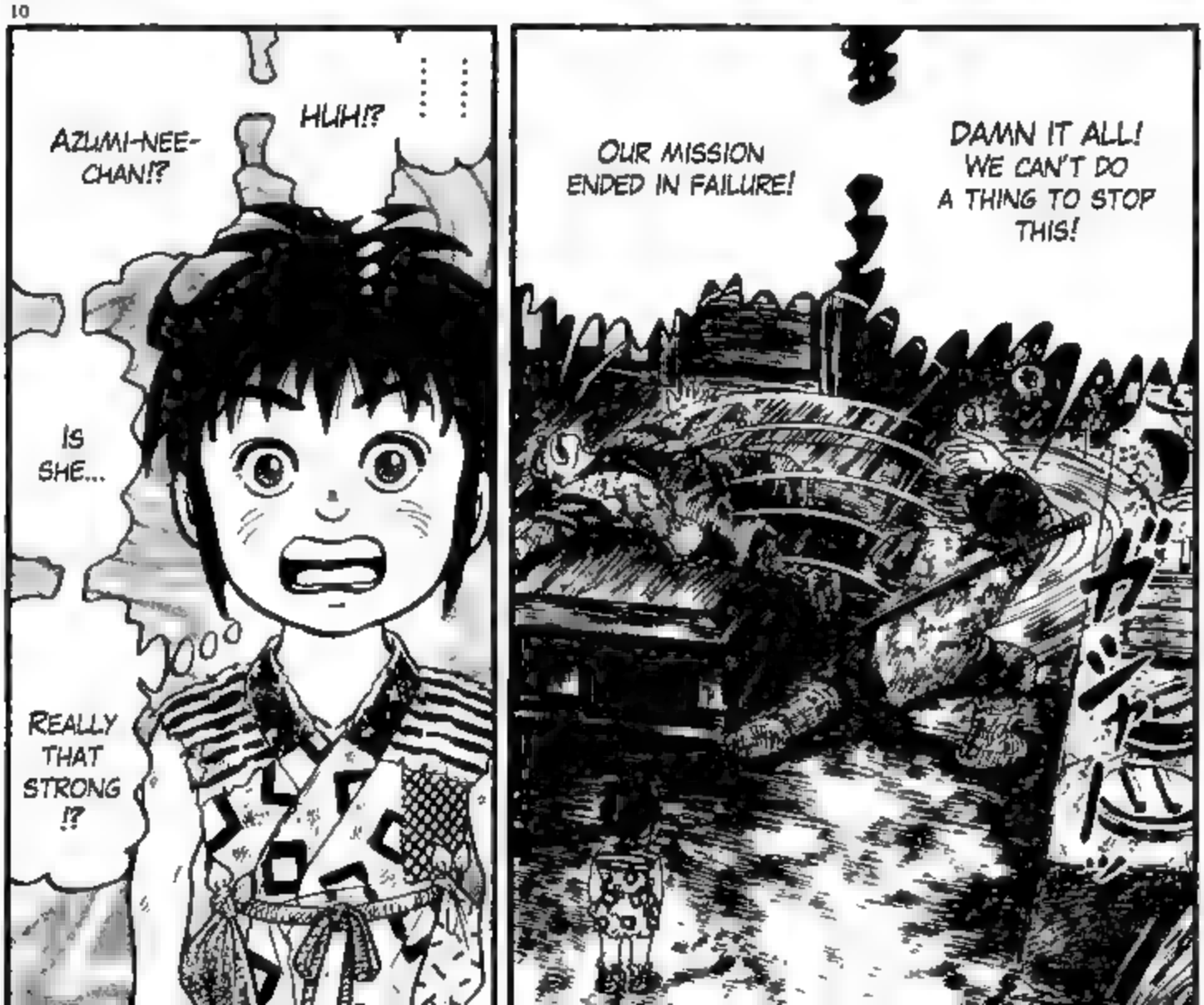

SHIIIT...IF ONLY AZUMI HAD KILLED GENSAI, HIS MEN AND THE RASETSUGARASU BACK THEN...EVERYTHING WOULD'VE SETTLED DOWN!!




ALL MY EFFORTS WERE FOR NOTHING TO NOW!
AND AZUMI DIDN'T CARRY OUT THE MISSION ENTRUSTED TO HER!
WE BOTH FAILED THIS BIG TIME!


AZUMI-NEE-CHAN...
SHOULD'VE... KILLED GENSAI AND THE RASE-TSUGARASU TOO...?


IT'LL CHANGE NOTHING IF YOU KNOW IT NOW...
KILLING ALL THE RINGLEADERS OF THIS WAR WOULD'VE PREVENTED IT FROM HAPPENING!! AZUMI IS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD'VE DONE IT...
.....

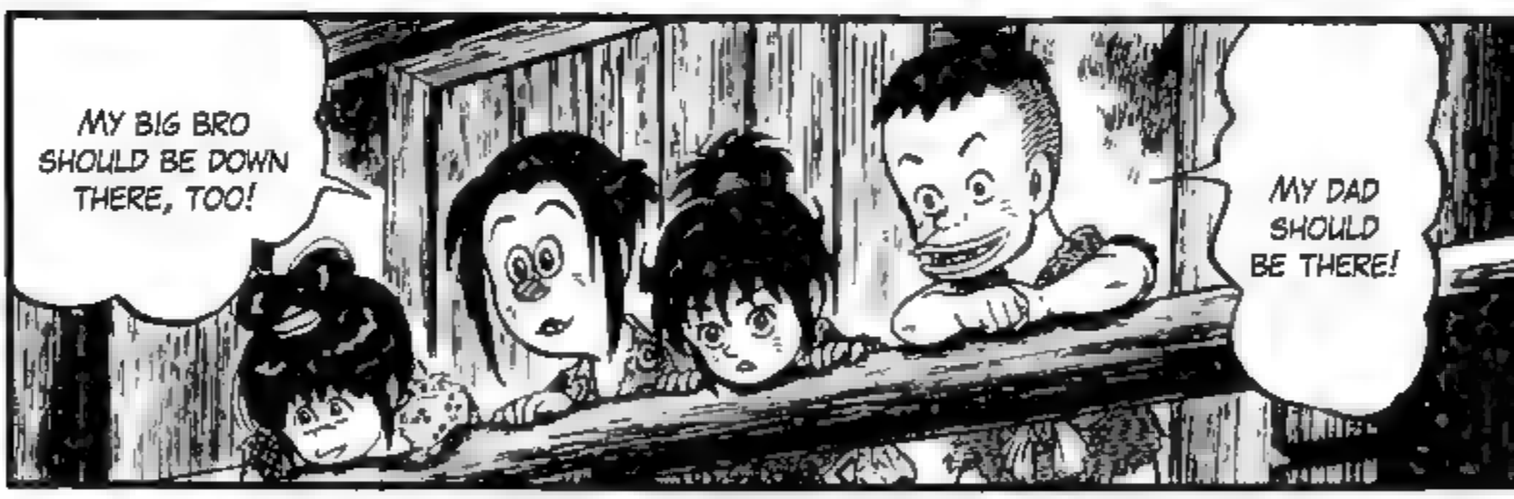

DAMN IT ALL! WE CAN'T DO A THING TO STOP THIS!
OUR MISSION ENDED IN FAILURE!
ガシャーン
HUH!?
.....
AZUMI-NEE-CHAN!?
IS SHE...
REALLY THAT STRONG !?

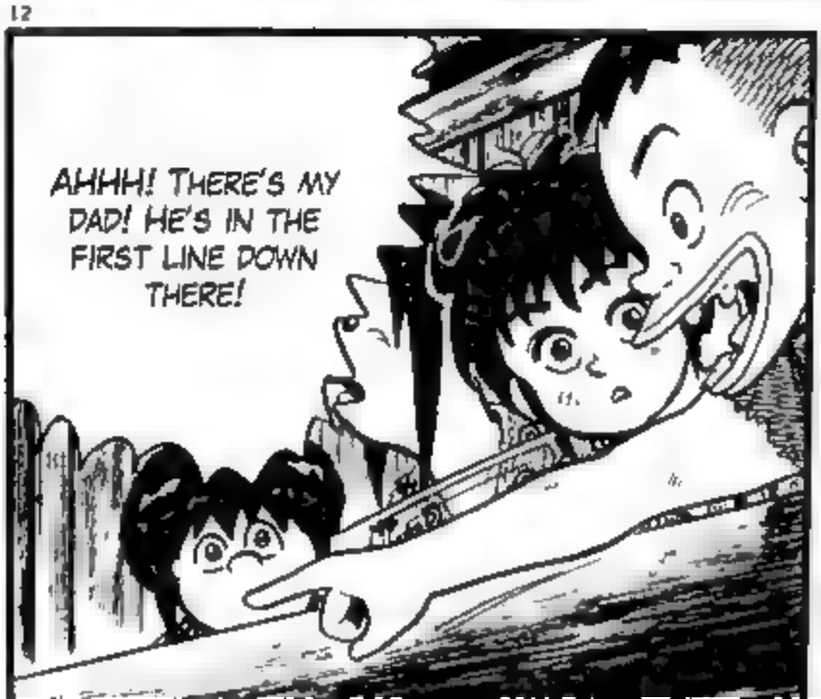

YOU'RE LATE, GACCHI! WHAT WERE YOU DOING!?


YESTERDAY, I FOUND A REEEEEAL GOOD SPOT TO WATCH FROM!


AH! THEY'RE STARTING !!!


LAYING SIEGE TO THE CASTLE SAMURAI ON THE OTHER SIDE!
WAAH! YOU CAN SEE IT SO WELL!


MY BIG BRO SHOULD BE DOWN THERE, TOO!
MY DAD SHOULD BE THERE!


AHHH! THERE'S MY DAD! HE'S IN THE FIRST LINE DOWN THERE!




DAD
...
FRONT ROW! SPEAR SQUAD!
ビュッ
ビュッ


.....
CH AAA AAAA AAAA AAAA ARGE!




I SAID TO CHARGE !!!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU!?

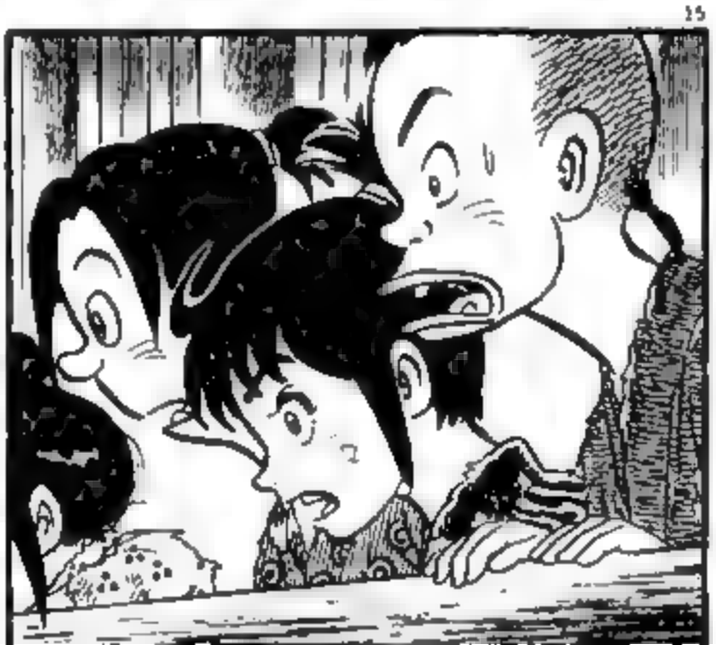

THE ENEMY IS NOT ONLY TO YOUR FRONT!
THOSE WHO GET SO EASILY FRIGHTENED AND REFUSE TO OBEY THEIR ORDERS WILL BE SHOT FROM THE REAR!


LISTEN! SHOOT THE ONES WHO DISOBEY TO DEATH!
AGAIN !!!
AHH!
EEH!




FRONT ROW! SPEAR SQUAD!

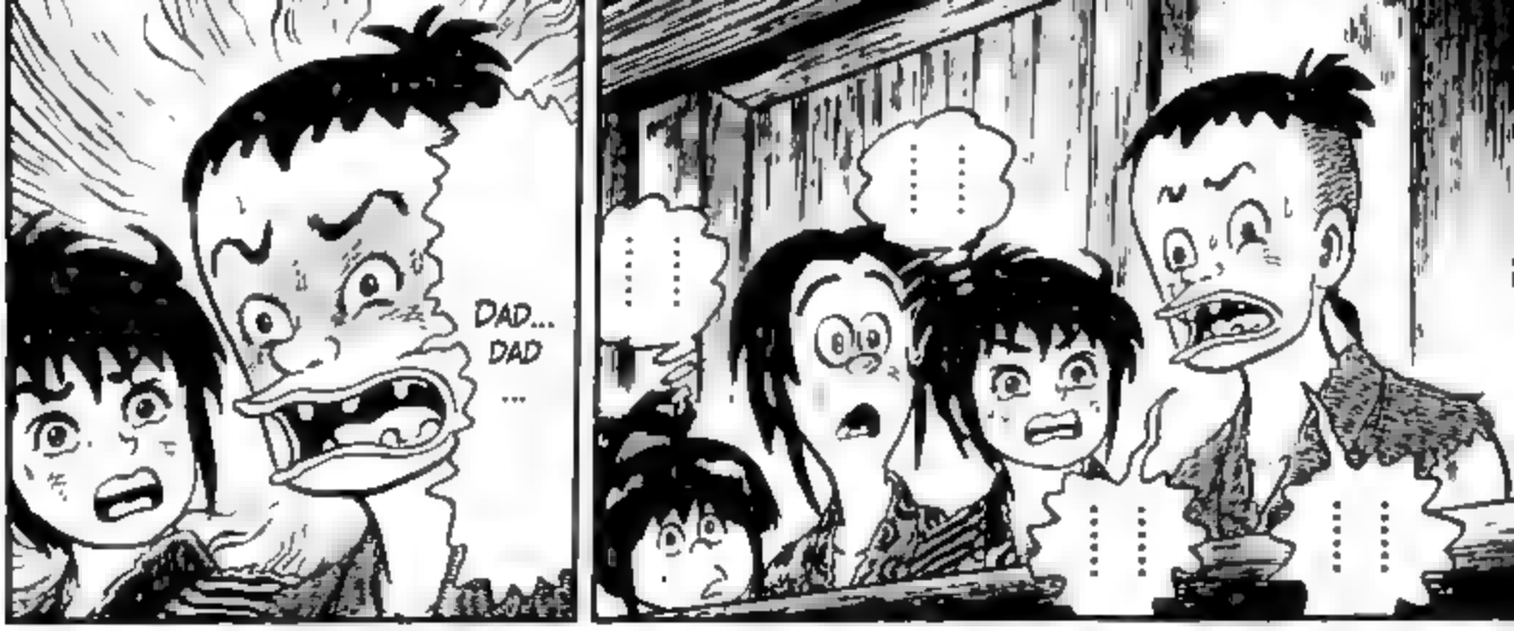

CHA AAA AAA AAA AAA RGE!




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あああああ
AHH! SHIZUNE-SAMA! GRANT US DIVINE PROTECTION!
THERE GOES DAD!
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パン
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ピュー




DON'T FALTEE EEEER!
THIS IS WHAT A WAR IIIS!


DAD...
DAD
...

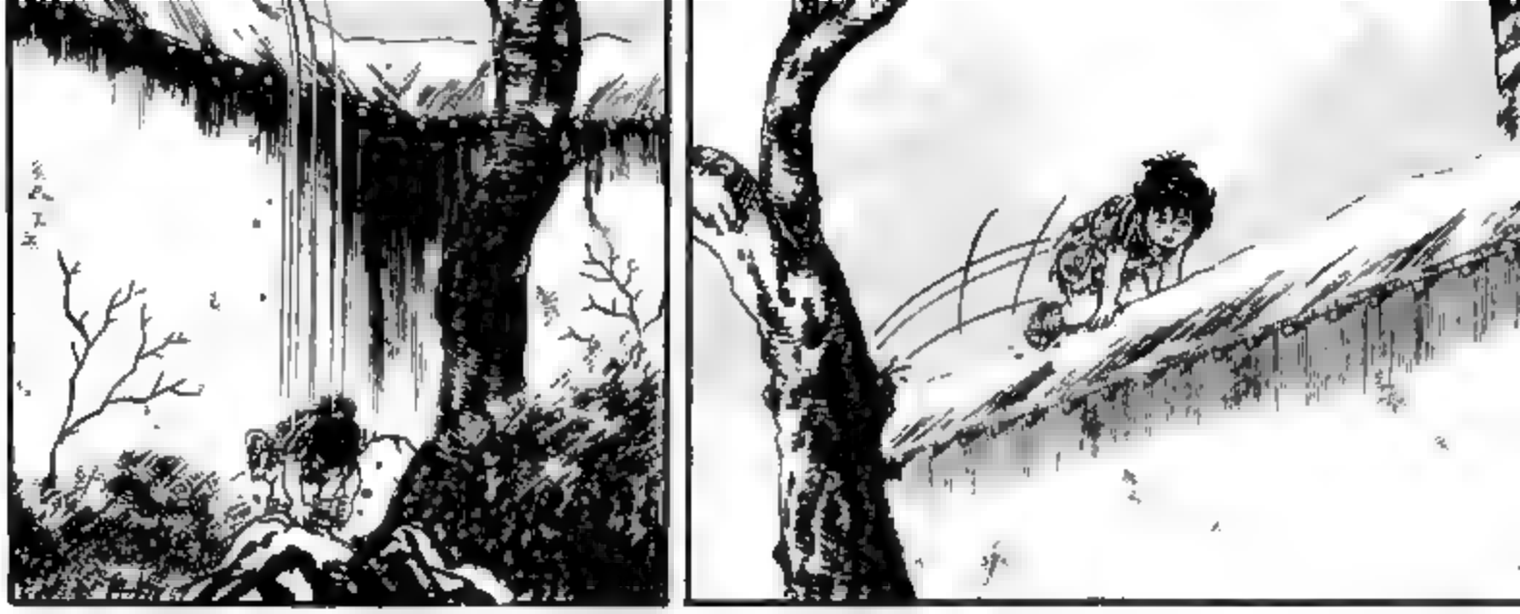

THAT'S RIGHT! HE WAS SUMMONED BY GOD AND WENT TO HIS GLORY!
HE...HE CAN GO...RIGHT?
IT'S A REAL HAPPY THING, YOU KNOW!
DAD CAN...GO TO THE GRACE OF... GOD...


CHARGE!
NEXT SQUAD!


DAAAAAAAD!!!


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ドカ
ドカ
ドカ




おお
UNDER-STOOD!?
THIS SQUAD WILL PERFORM A THOUROUGH SEARCH BY BREAKING INTO EVERY HOUSE ONE BY ONE!!
THERE MUST BE SOME CASTLE SAMURAI WHO'VE SHUT THEM-SELVES INSIDE THEIR MANSIONS!!
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ド"カ
ド"カ
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ド"カ
!!
KILL THEM AAAAALL !!!!
ドゥクン
ドゥクン
ド"ッ"クン
SLAUGHTER ALL THE SAMURAI!




HIDE SOME-WHERE!
HURRY, RUN!


SO THIS WAS A CASTLE SAM-URAI MANSION, TOO?


FATHEE EEEER!
D-DE-DEAAAR!
R-RUN AWAY!
PLEASE! RUN AWAY!
YOU MUST RUULIN!
FAAA THEEE EER!


THE RASETSU-GARASU!
おのれ
おしく


ズド


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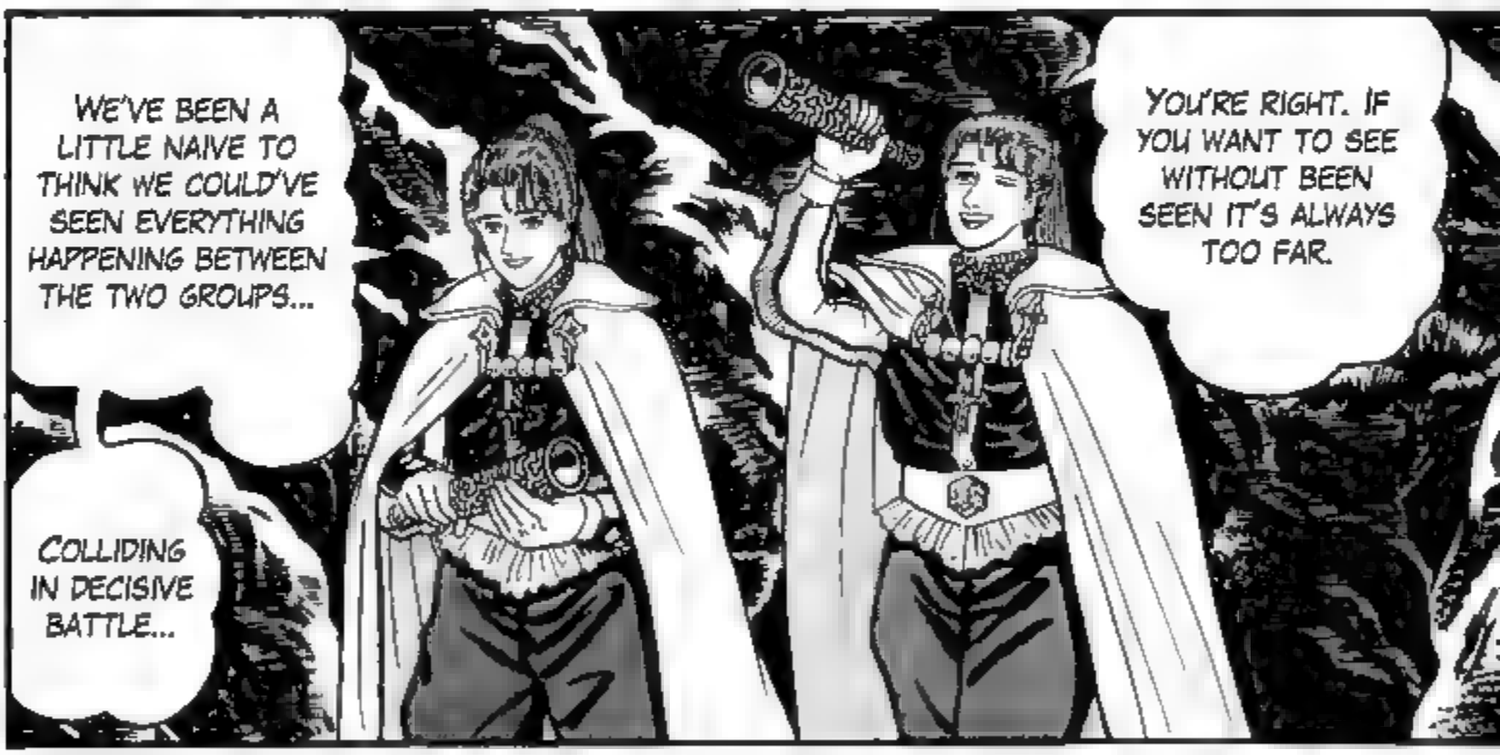

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HOW'D IT GO OVER THERE!?
DID YOU FIND A SPOT TO WATCH WITHOUT BEING SEEN!?


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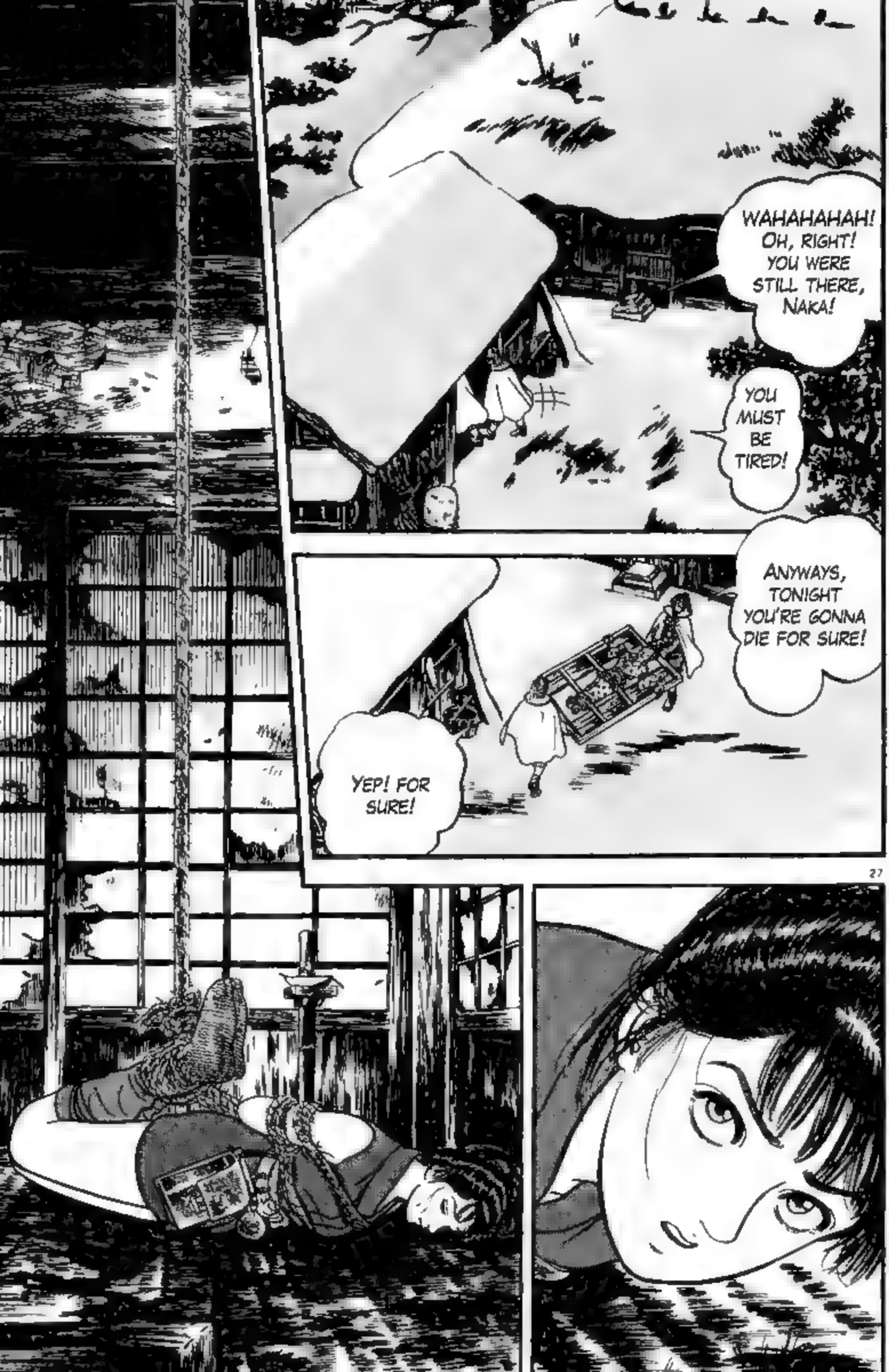

クン
TH-THEY...EVEN... KILLED THE... CHILDREN...


YES. BUT IT'S A BIT TOO FAR...

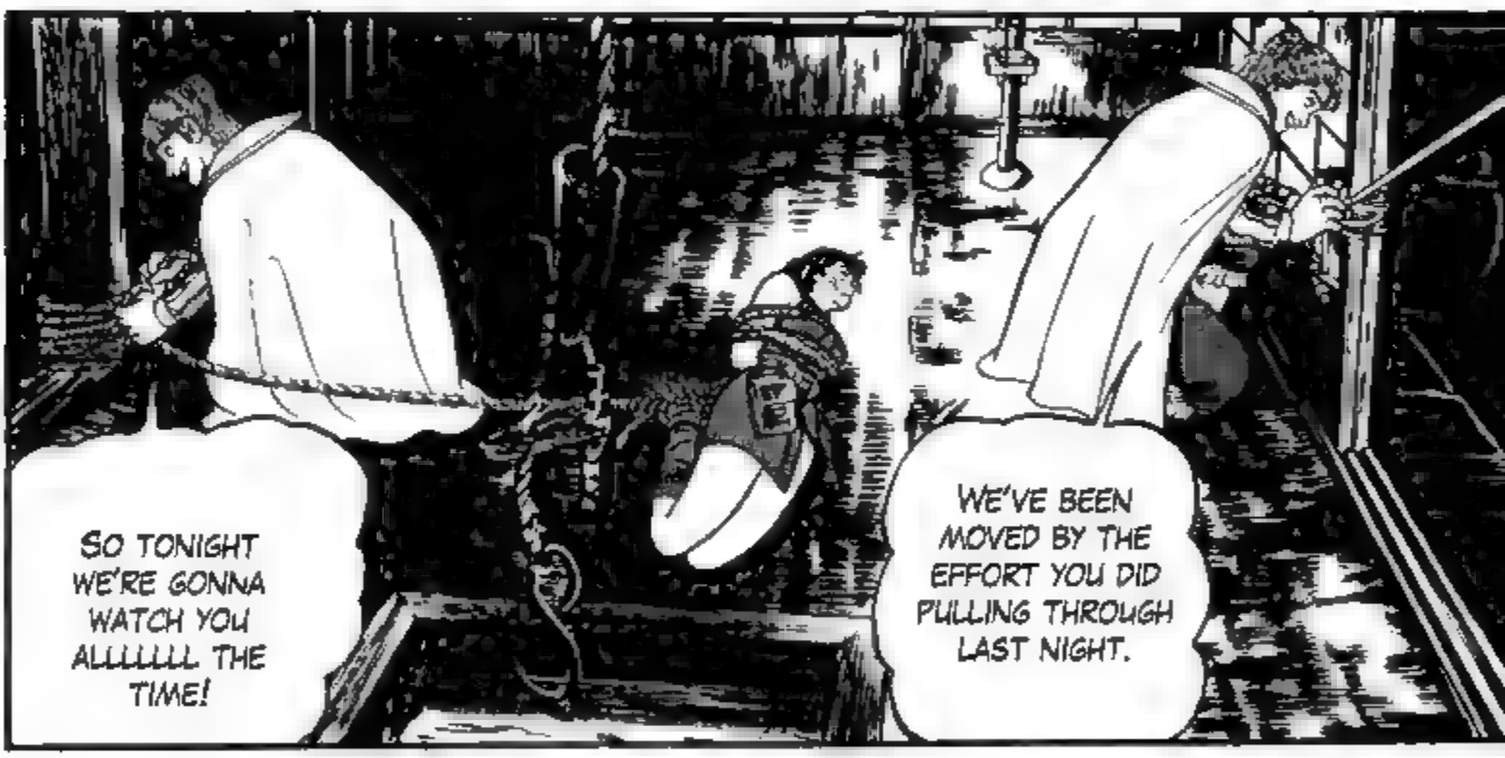

WE'VE BEEN A LITTLE NAIVE TO THINK WE COULD'VE SEEN EVERYTHING HAPPENING BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS...
COLLIDING IN DECISIVE BATTLE...
YOU'RE RIGHT. IF YOU WANT TO SEE WITHOUT BEEN SEEN IT'S ALWAYS TOO FAR.


OH, YES! AZUMI'S TRAINING IS A BLAST!
BUT EVEN "THIS" IS FUN...

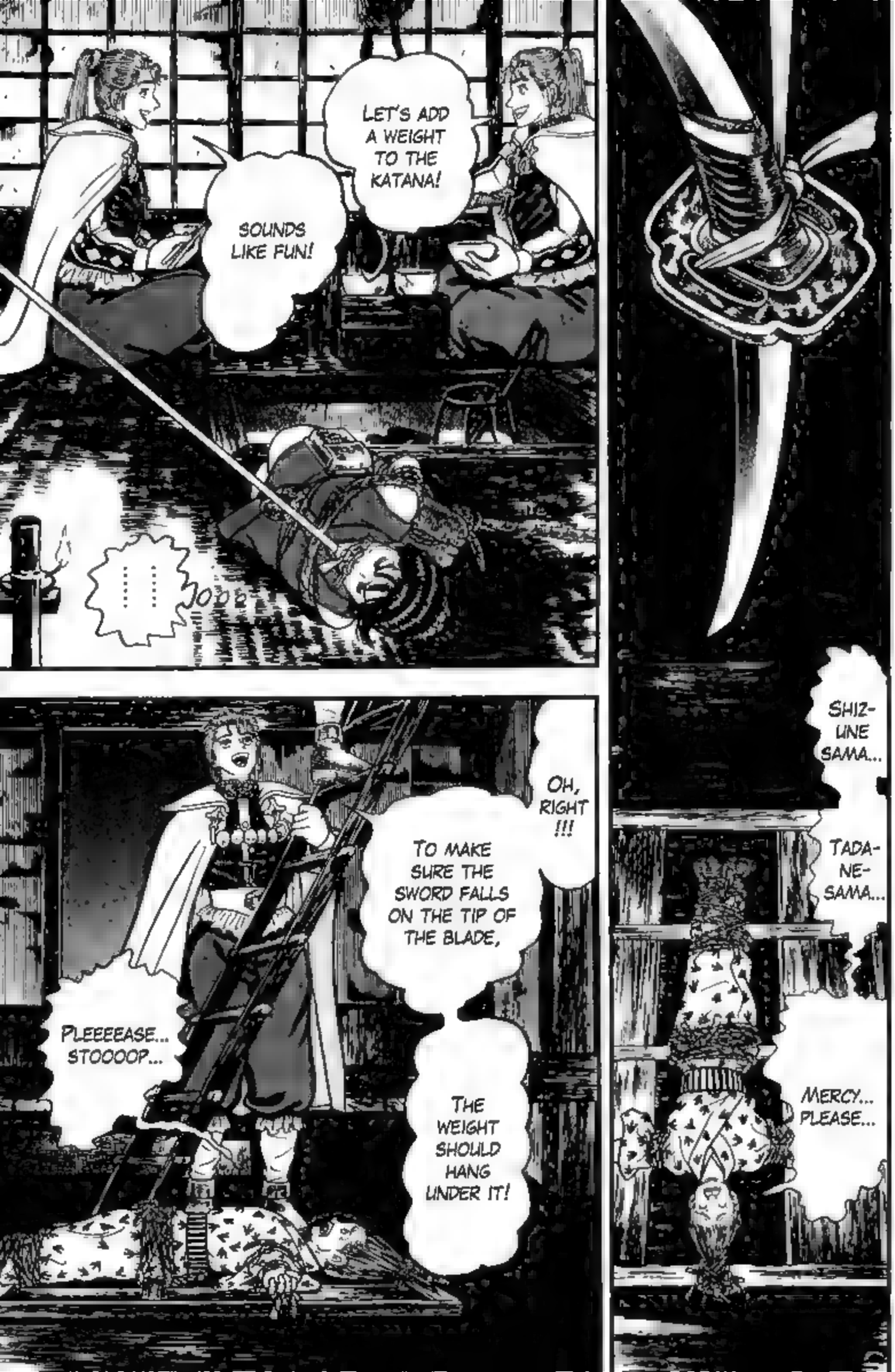

TRUE ...


WAHAHAHAH! OH, RIGHT! YOU WERE STILL THERE, NAKA!
YOU MUST BE TIRED!
ANYWAYS, TONIGHT YOU'RE GONNA DIE FOR SURE!
YEP! FOR SURE!


HEY, AZUMI!
IT'S THE START OF ANOTHER LOOOOONG AND PAINFUL NIGHT!


WE'VE BEEN MOVED BY THE EFFORT YOU DID PULLING THROUGH LAST NIGHT.
SO TONIGHT WE'RE GONNA WATCH YOU ALLLLLLL THE TIME!

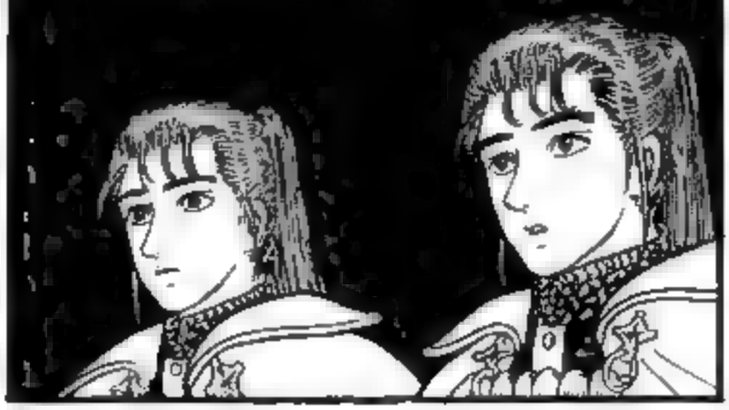

SLEPT WELL WHEN WE WERE OUT!?
EVEN IF YOU RECOVERED A BIT OF STAMINA THAT WAY, YOU HAVEN'T EATEN A THING THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE DAY!
HOW MUCH STRENGTH DO YOU HAVE TO ENDURE, I WONDER!?

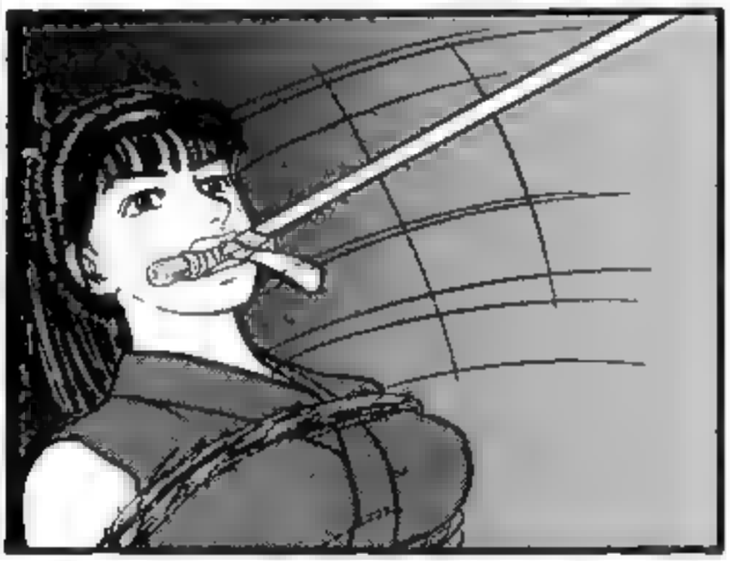

LET'S ADD A WEIGHT TO THE KATANA!
SOUNDS LIKE FUN!
.....
SHIZ-UNE SAMA...
TADA-NE-SAMA...
MERCY... PLEASE...
OH, RIGHT !!!
TO MAKE SURE THE SWORD FALLS ON THE TIP OF THE BLADE,
PLEEEEASE... STOOOOP...
THE WEIGHT SHOULD HANG UNDER IT!


THIS WAY, YOU'LL REACH YOUR LIMIT SOON, AZUMI!
WA HAH HAH HAH!
30
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フルブル
ブルブル

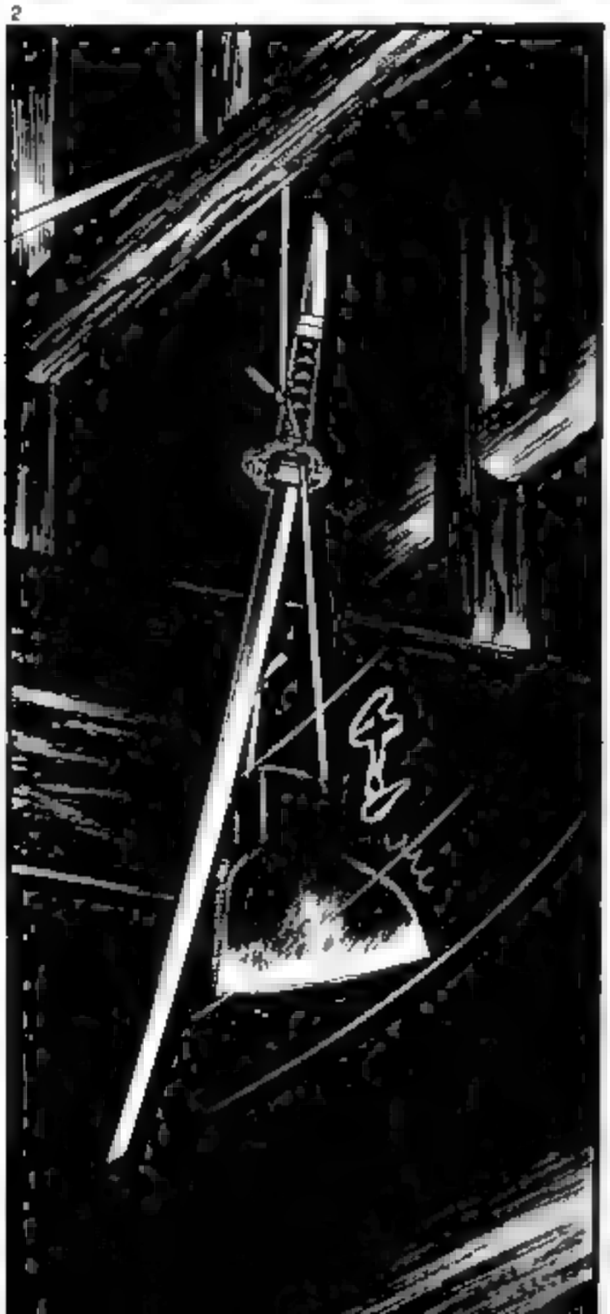

CHAPTER 4:
DIVINE MISCHIEF







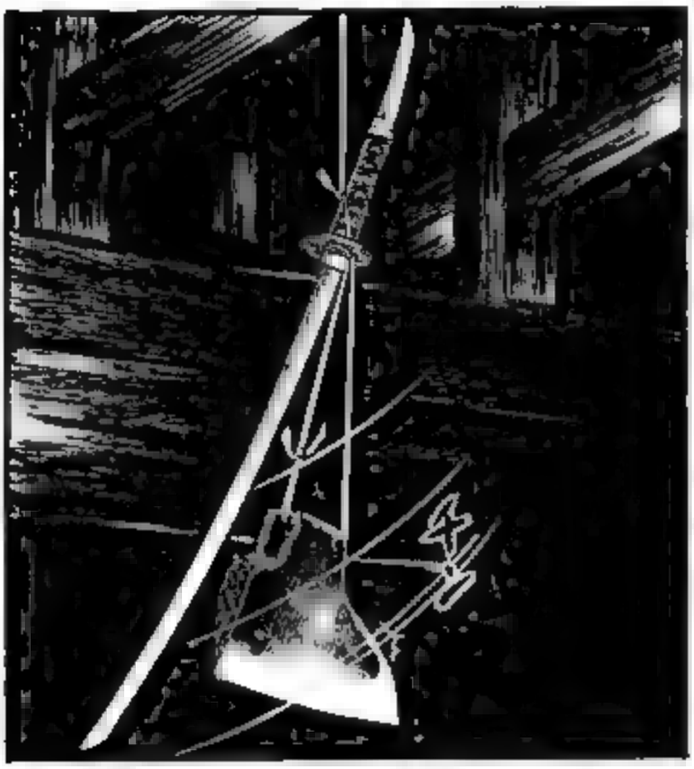
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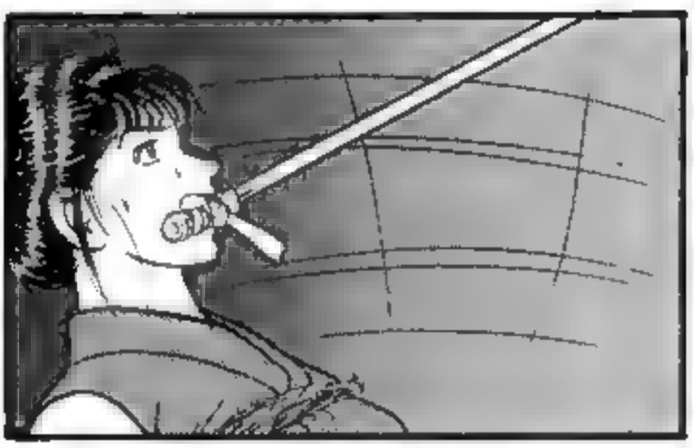






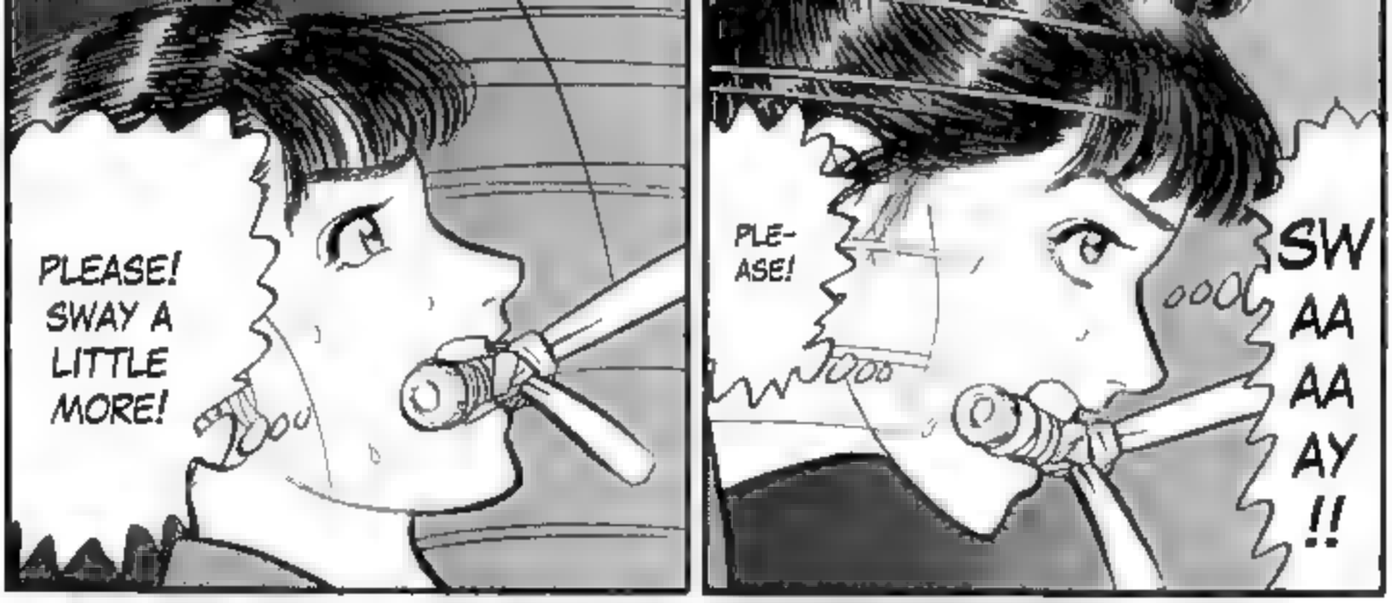


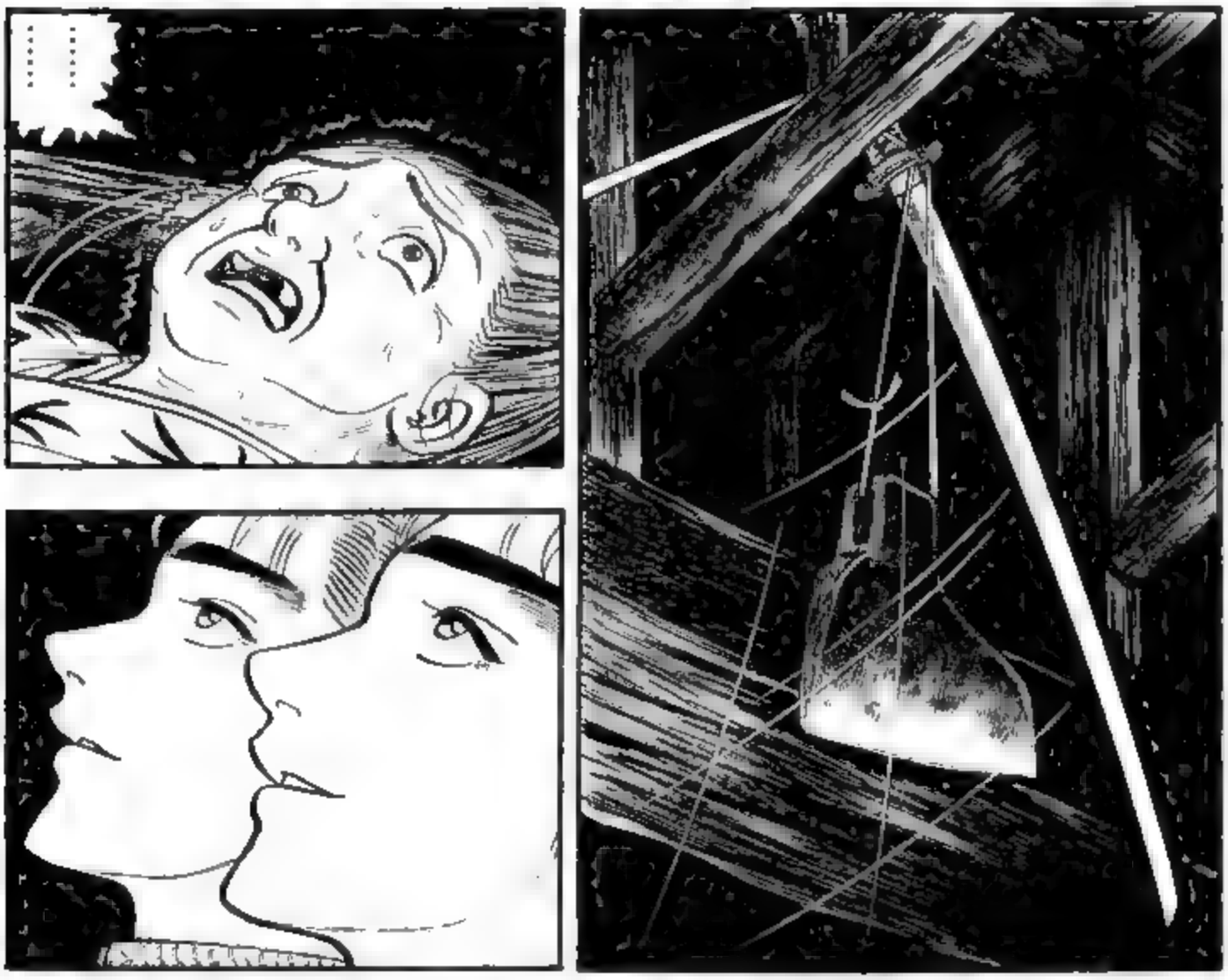


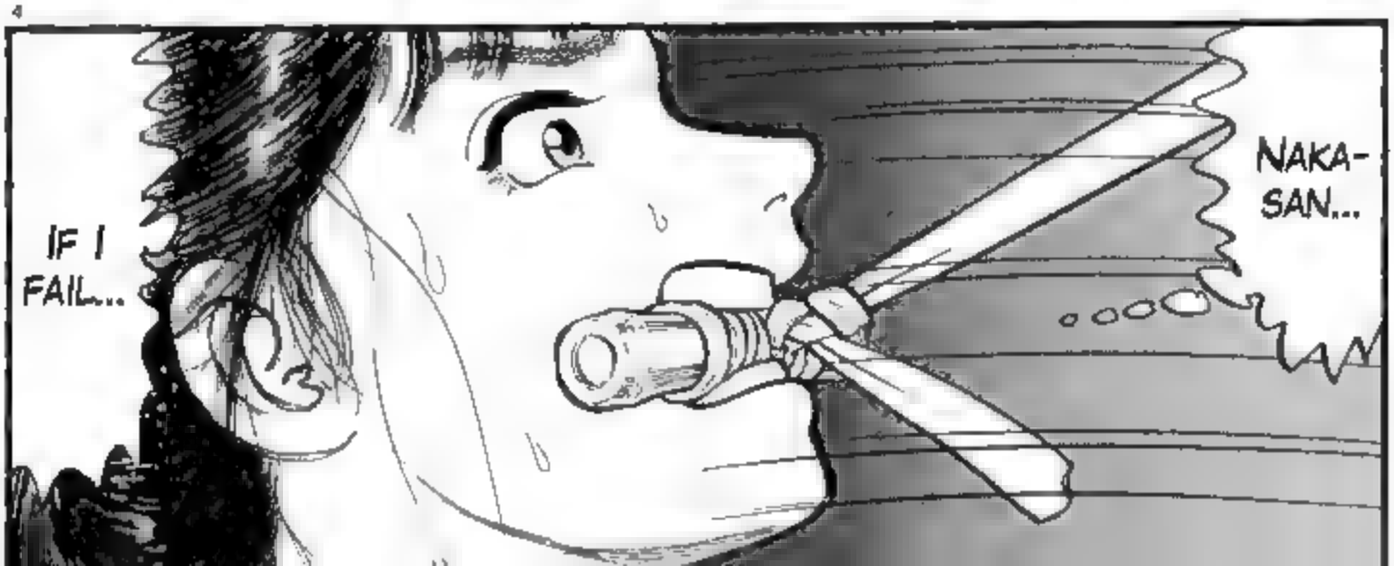




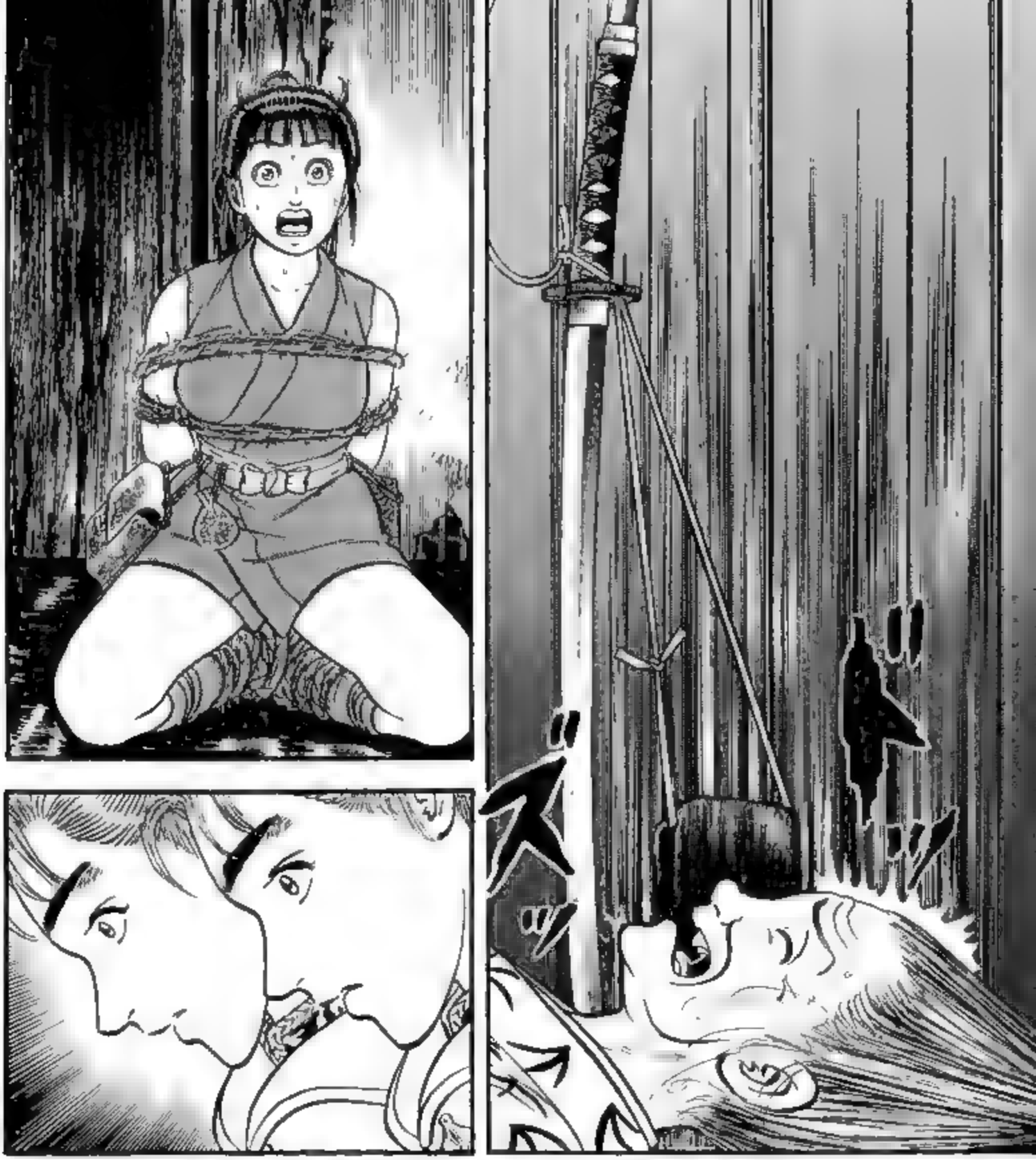



PLEASE! SWAY A LITTLE MORE!
PLE-ASE!
SW AA AA AY !!


.....


IF I FAIL...
NAKA-SAN...


PLE-
ASE
FOR-
GIVE
ME!
JOOO
HYAAAAH!






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I'M SO HAPPY!
WELL DONE! WELL DONE!


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YOU TRULY ARE WORTHY PREY TO TRAIN!


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LET'S FEED THEM THIS WAY THEN!
WAHAHA! THIS'S FUN!
IF YOU DON'T EAT, YOUR BODY WON'T RECOVER!
COME ON, NAKA! EAT UP! YOU MUST BE HUNGRY!

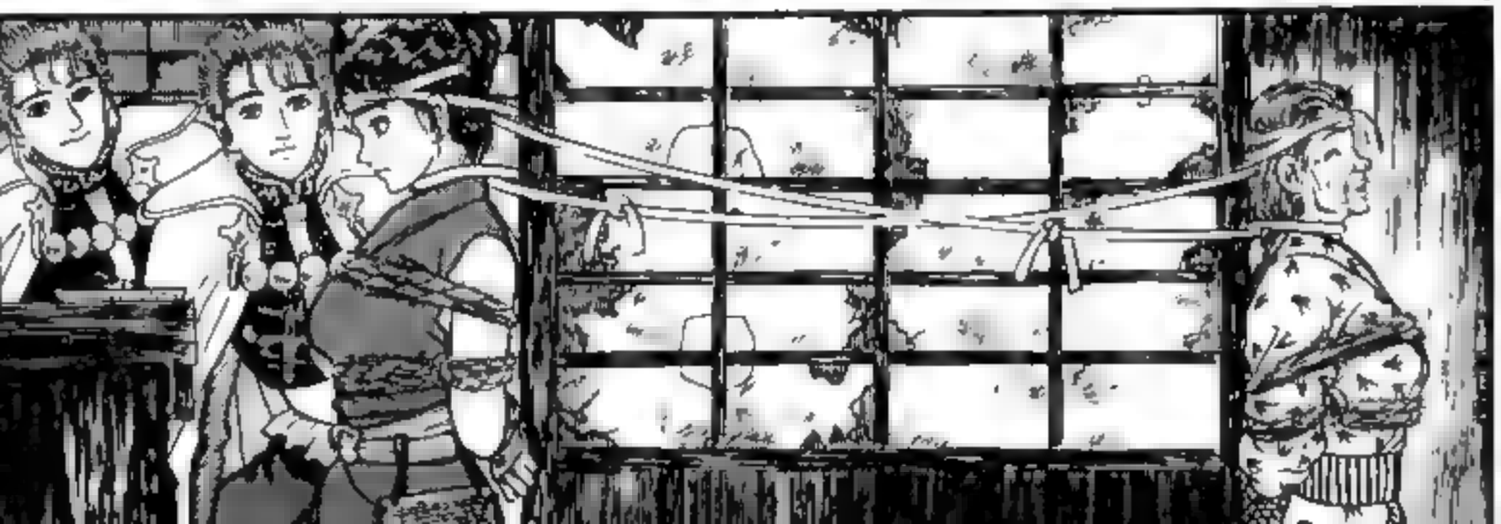



"I CAN'T BE WORRIED ABOUT THE OTHER! I'M SO HUNGRY, I'M GONNE DIE!"
"WHAT SHOULD I DO!? WHAT SHOULD I DO!?"
"BUT IF I EAT, THE OTHER'S NECK WILL BE CONSTRICTED! AND SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO BREATHE!"
"I WANT TO EAT! I WANT TO EAT!"
THIS'S SOOOO MUCH FUN!
HAHA HAHAH HAHA!
C'MON! WE AREN'T GONNA LET YOU FEED HER FOREVER!
RIGHT! IF YOU DON'T EAT QUICK, IT'S GOING AWAY!

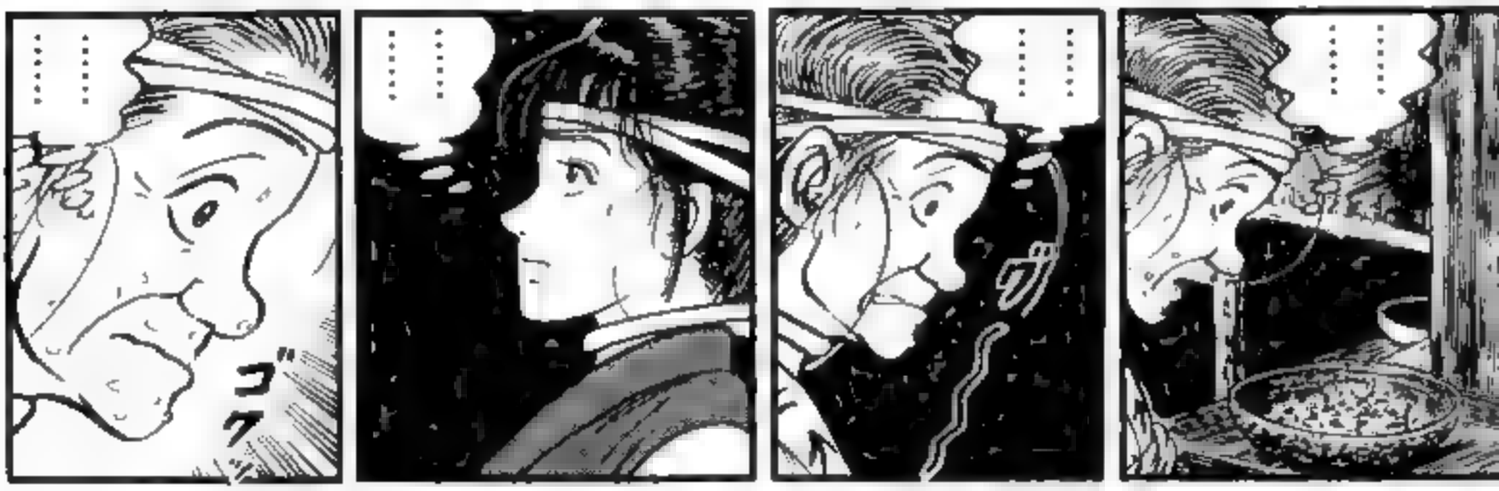

IT'S TRUE THAT IF I DON'T EAT AT LEAST A LITTLE I WON'T HAVE ANY MORE STAMINA...
……
……
グ
GROWL
ぎゅっ
!!
Squeeze!
ガツ
ガツ
ガツ
ぎゅっ
squeeze


ガッ
ガン
ガッ
ガッ


C'MON. IT'S TIME YOU ATE THIS WAY, AZUMI!
I'M SO SO-RRY!
I'M SORRY !!




……
SHE HURTS YOU, YOU HURT HER BACK! FAIR, ISN'T IT!?
WHAT'S WRONG !?


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ONLY NAKA IS EATING...
NAKA AGAIN...
AZUMI! DON'T YOU EAT!?


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AND...LOOKS LIKE NAKA ENDED UP EATING EVERYTHING!
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WAA AAA AAA AAA AAA AAA AAA AAH!
WAA AAA AAA AH !!!


UH...


WAH ...


IT'S ALRIGHT! DON'T MIND ME!
I'M SO SOOOORRY! FORGIVE ME, AZUMI-SAAAN !!!


NOW...I'L BE THE ONE ENDURING... SO PLEASE EAT!


.....
COME ON! GO ON AND PULL!


EAT UP, AZUMI!
NAKA SAID YOU COULD!
WHAT'S WRONG!?


.....
YOU CAN TAKE IT AWAY!
I WON'T !!!


BY NATURE, I'M REBELLIOUS AND A LITTLE STUBBORN TO BOOT!
NAKA-SAN.. DON'T CONCERN YOURSELF WITH ME!
PLEASE... DON'T BE CONCERNED ABOUT ME... JUST PULL...


THIS IS THE BEST !!!
SHE'S REALLY A WOMAN WORTH TRAINING!
I'M GETTING SHIVERS!
THAT'S GREAT, AZUMI!


I DON'T KNOW WHICH OF YOU IS SHIZUNE OR TADANE...
BUT FEELING JOY AT SUCH DESPICABLE DEEDS...
MEANS YOU'RE BOTH JUST MISERABLE LOUTS!


BLAH, BLAH... BIG TALK NOW, AZUMI...
BUT ONE DAY, YOU'LL BE REDUCED TO AN ANIMAL THAT NEVER DARES TALK BACK TO US.
FOR SURE!


OH, AND ABOUT THOSE WORDS YOU JUST SAID? WE NEED TO PUNISH YOU A BIT.
FOR CER-TAIN.


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We'll send a message to the castle samurai saying to come to the final battle to Kazunogahara, or else we'll execute the Lord and the others.
At Kazunogahara, we'll hang the Lord and his relatives on crosses...the ones caught by Gensai and his men...
Listen, about a method to have both parties clash in a place where we can see them very well...What do you think about this?
There's no way loyal vassals can let their master die!
Indeed! How fun!
On cross-es.
All the more if their masters are exp-osed
There should already be lots of people willing to bet everything on a decisive battle.
Though they have secured the temple, the castle samurai are completely besieged and at a disadvantage.


MORESO, TO GEN-SAI'S EYES THIS WILL APPEAR AS BE THE BATTLEFIELD HE WANTS FOR A SHOWY CLASH.
ALRIGHT! TOMORROW, LET'S GO TO THE CASTLE AND SUGGEST IT TO HIM!
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THIS'LL BE
HURRAAAAY
わ
楽しいぞ!!
FUUUUUN!
WITH KAZU-NOGAHARA NEARBY, WE CAN WITNESS A HUGE MASSACRE!!


AHHH, SHIZUNE-SAMA!
SHIZUNE-SAMA HAS COME TO MEET YOU!!
GENSAI-SAMAAA !!!
NEXT MORNING
I'M GONNA FIGHT!
I'M PREPARED TO LAY DOWN MY LIFE IN THIS HOLY WAR!
SHIZUNE-SAMA!




.....




THERE ...
THAT'S RIGHT!
THERE IS...
!!
THERE'S STILL A WAY!!!




SEN-
SEI
...
HE'S A DEMON! SHUNJIRŌ IS A DEMON!


HOW COULD HE DO SUCH A THING TO HIIIM !?


THAT SHUNJIRŌ...WHO SAID HE IDOLIZED TENZAN-SAMA... THE MAN WHO WAS HIS SAVIOR..


DAMN YOU! SHUN-JIRŌ!
GAINING THE POSITION AND THE AUTHORITHY OF A SHOGUNATE AD-MINISTRATOR OF A GOLD MINE...-MADE HIM LOSE HIS HEAD...
HE'S NO HUMAN BEING! HE'S A DEMON HIDING IN HUMAN SKIN!


AHH !!!
ガラッ

EVERYONE! I HAVE NOBODY ELSE BUT YOU...

SH- SHUNIRŌ !!


DAMN YOU! SHUNJIRŌ!


AND YOU ALL! I NEED YOUR HELP!!
TEN-ZAN-DONO!


I STILL HAVE MY TRUMP CARD TO PLAY!
GENSAI AND HIS MEN DESTROYED MY IDEAL COUNTRY AND ARE ON THE VERGE OF STARTING A WAR, BUT


RIGHT NOW, THE FIEF CAN'T RUN WITHOUT THE GOLD MINE! IT'D NEVER LAST!
THE GOLD MINE ITSELF!
EVEN IF THEY TAKE THIS DOMAIN, I STILL HAVE ONE SOURCE OF FUNDS!


WE RIG ALL THE MINE'S TUNNELS WITH EXPLOSIVES!
SO WE SPLIT UP THE WORK!
THEN I DESTROY THE GOLD MINE!
IF THEY DISOBEY MY ORDER TO STOP THE WAR AND CREATE MY IDEAL COUNTRY,
THEN, I GO TO THE CASTLE TO PARLAY WITH GENSAI!


GIVE ME A HAND! C'MON!
THIS WAY GENSAI CAN'T JUST DISREGARD ME!
SO!?


IF I GO ALONE,
YOU DAMN DEVIIIIIIL!
SHUNJIROOOŌ! YOU KILLED MY COMRAA-AAAADES!

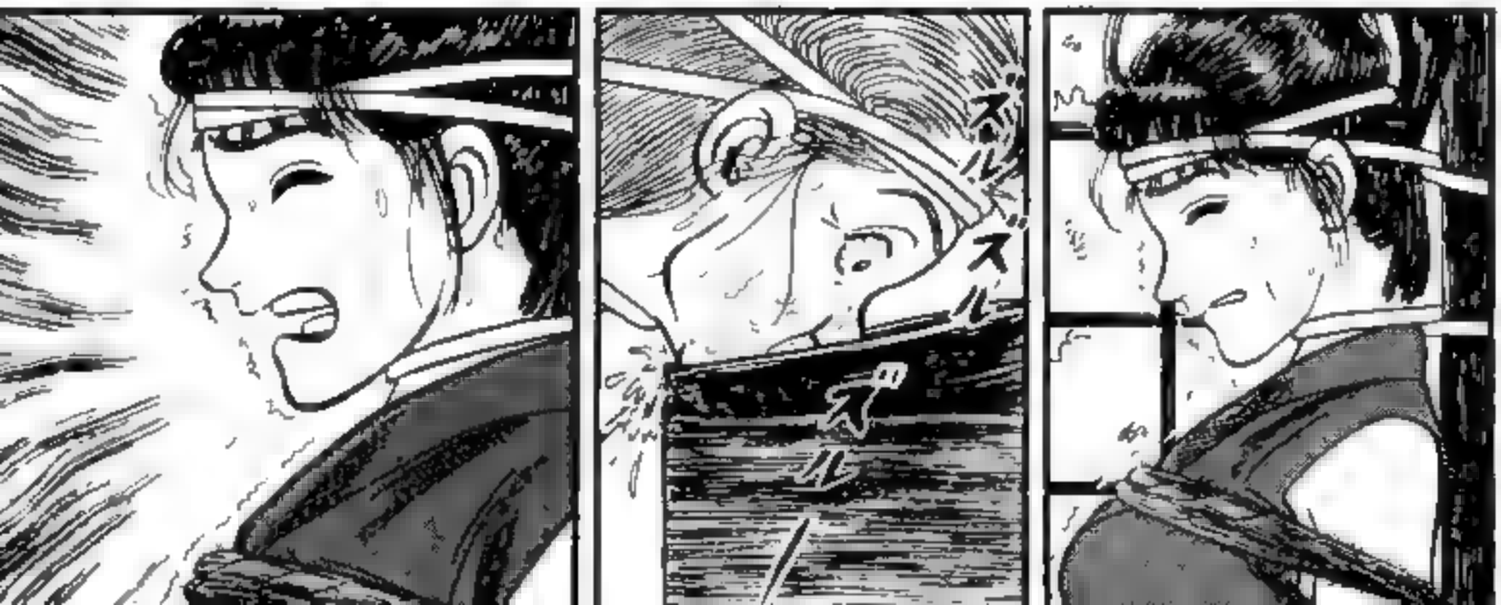

SO I NEED YOUR HELP AT ALL COSTS, YOU GUYS!
I'LL BE ON MY OWN WHEN I NEGOTIATE! IF THEY TAKE ME PRISONER, THAT'S THE END OF IT!


WITH MY TRUMP HERE WE CAN TURN THIS SITUATION AROUND!
YOU! DAMN! DEVIII !!!!! !!!!!! !!!!!!!! !!!!!!!! !!!!L !!!!!



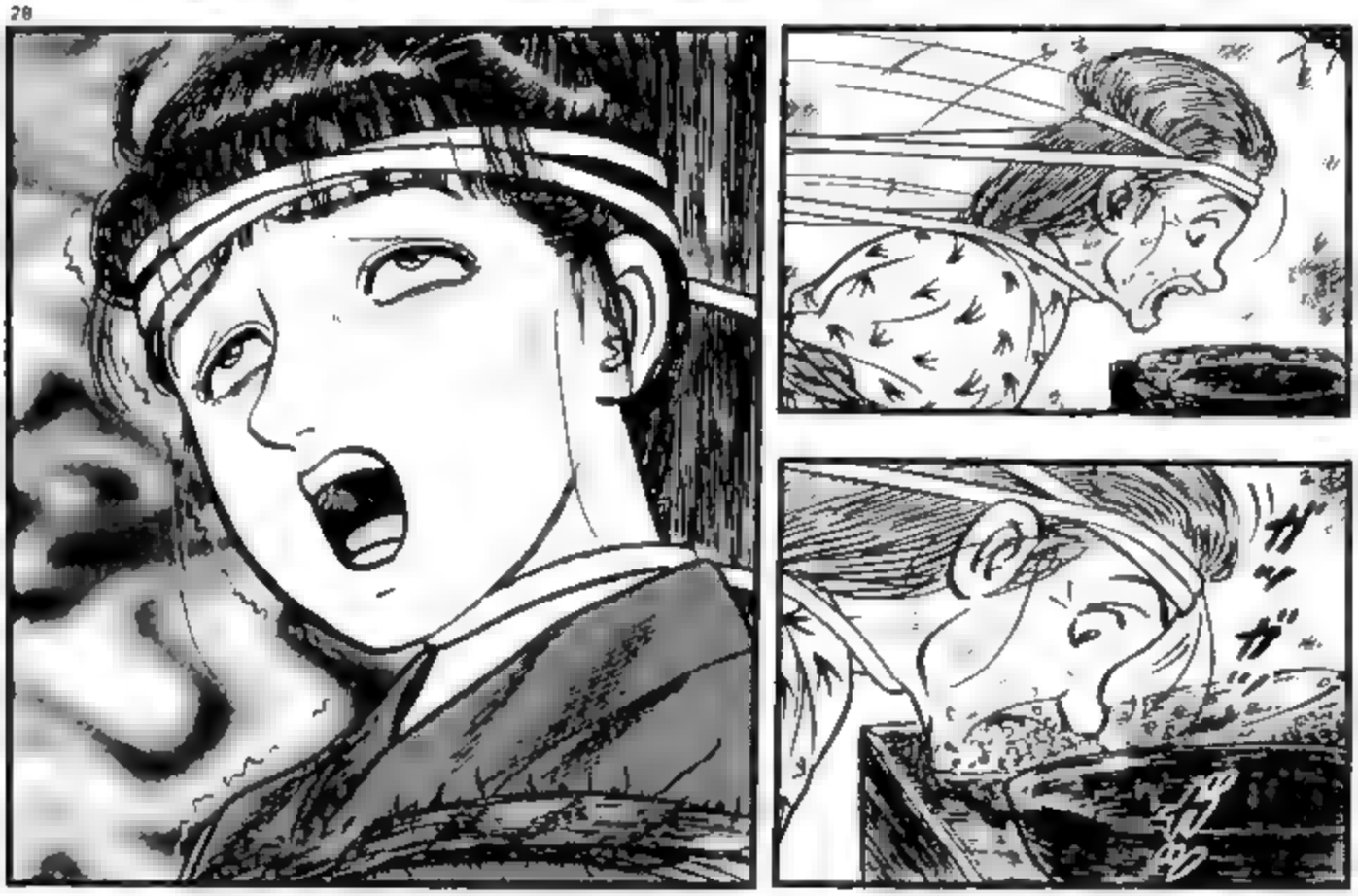

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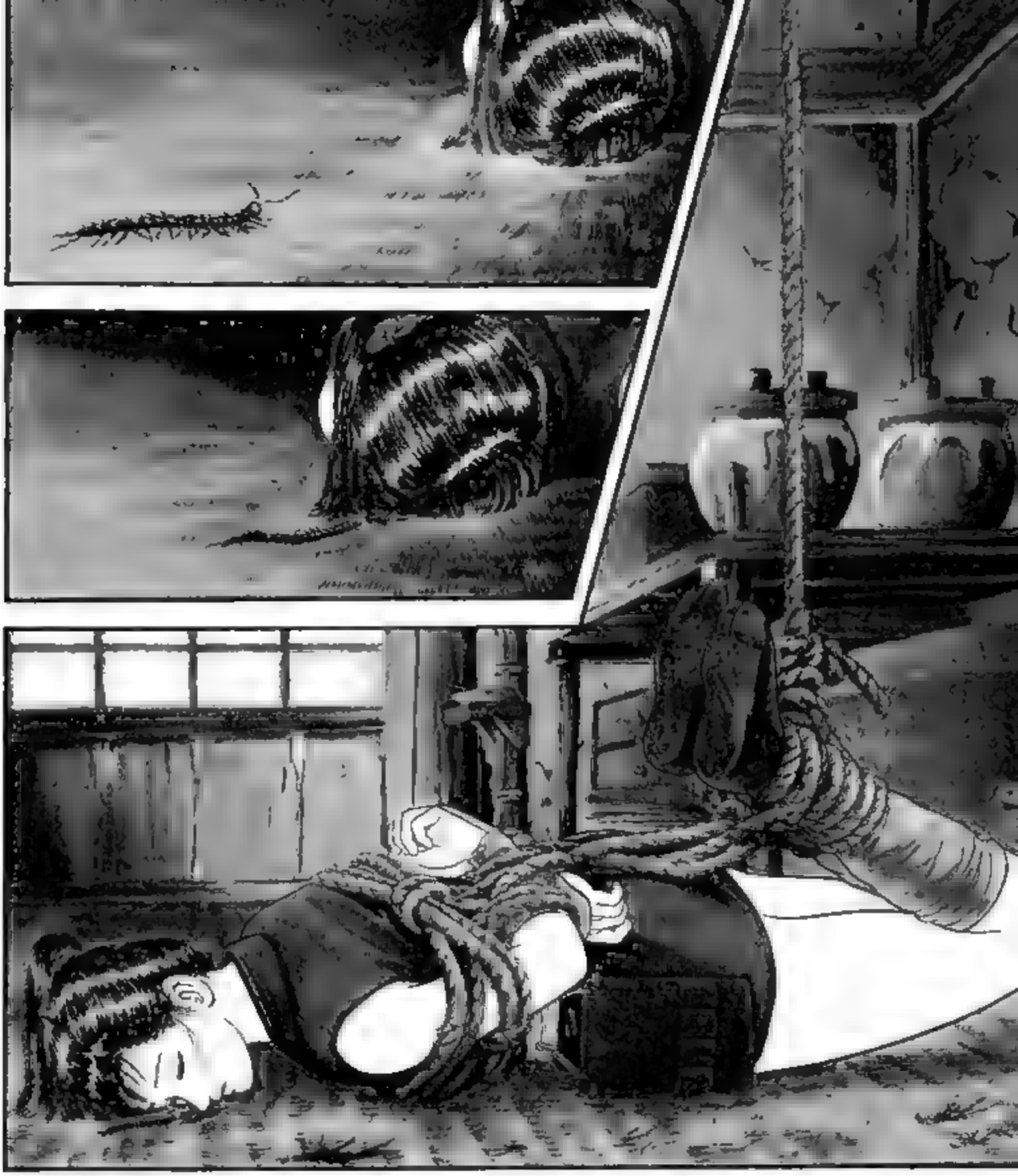

AZUMI...IF YOU DON'T AT LEAST DRINK SOME WATER... YOU'RE GONNA DIE.
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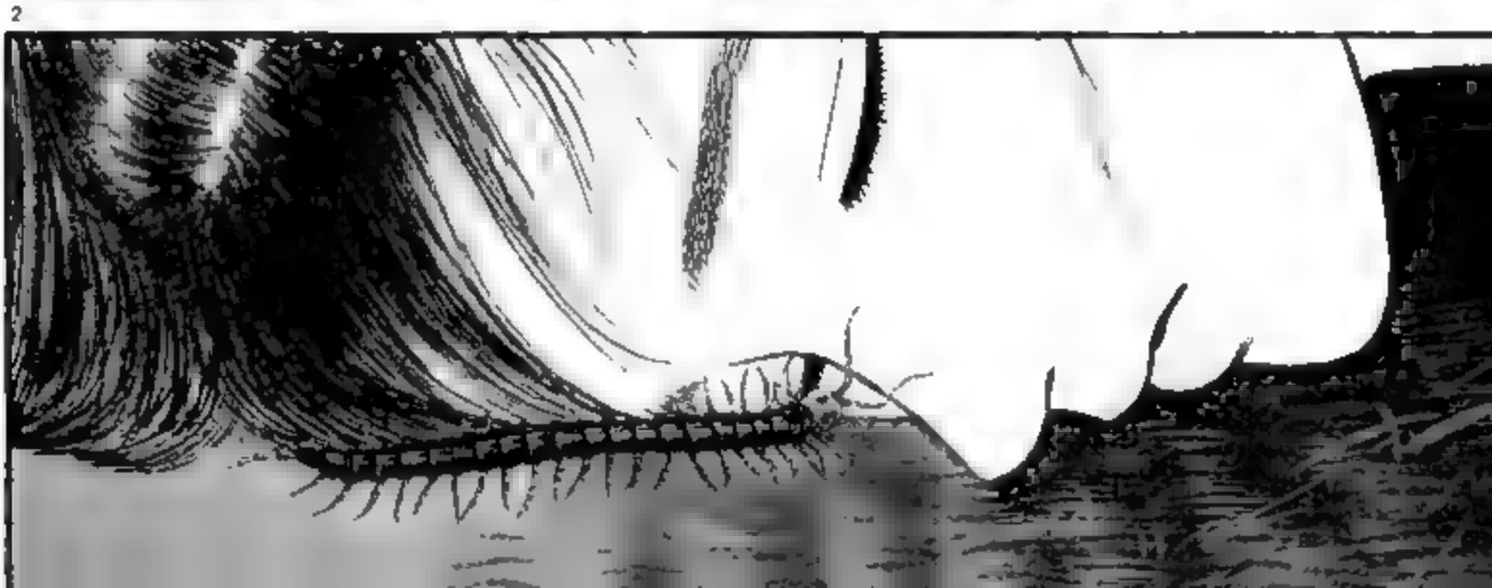
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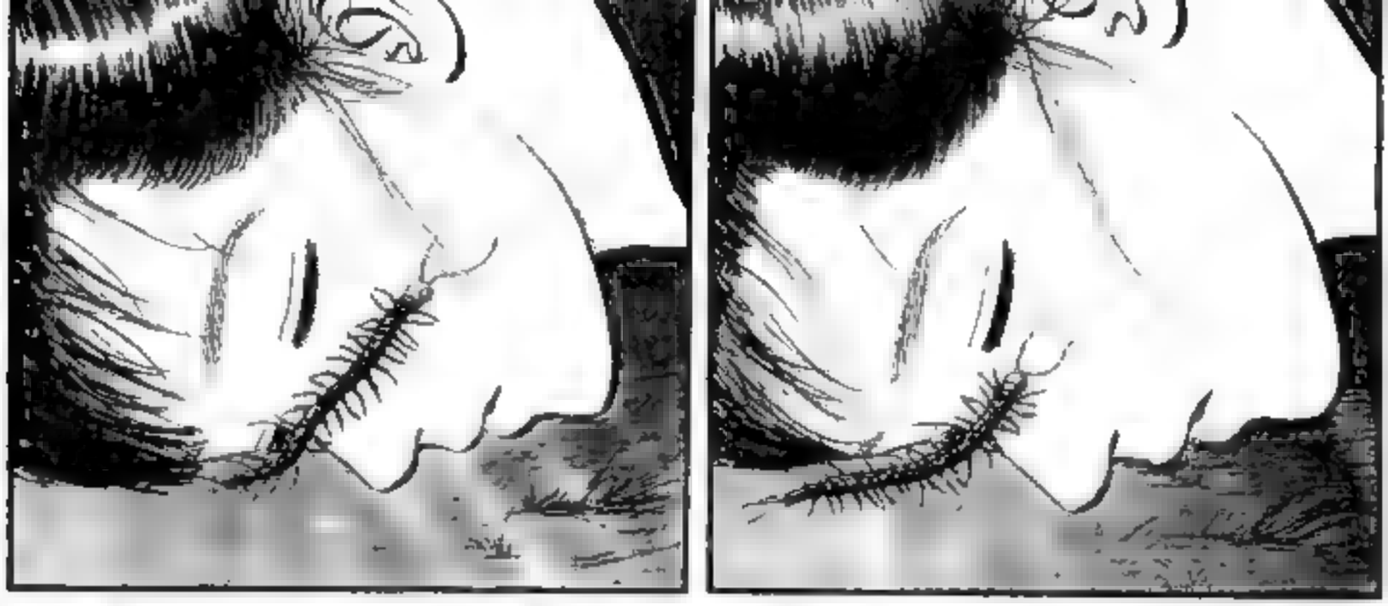

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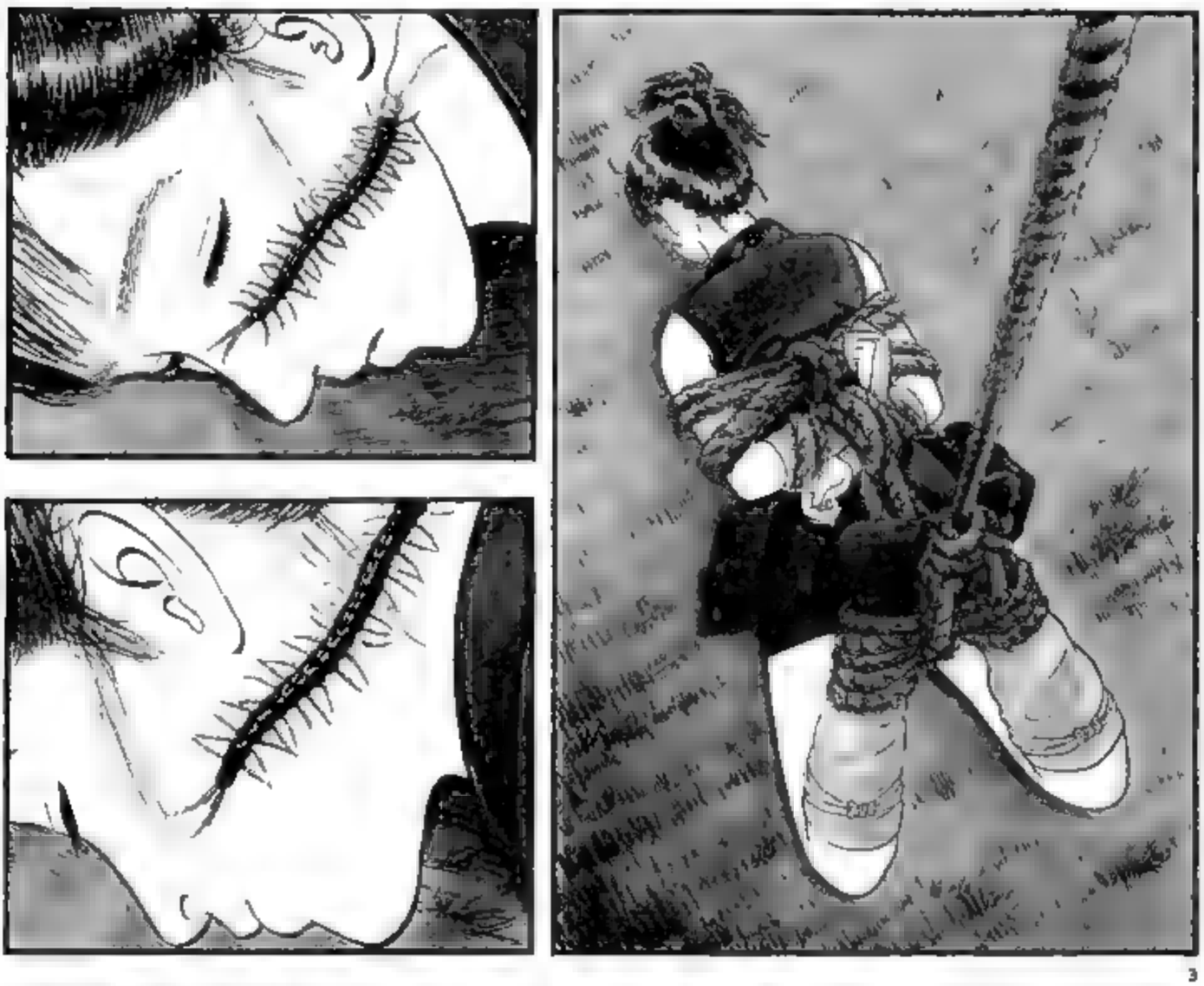


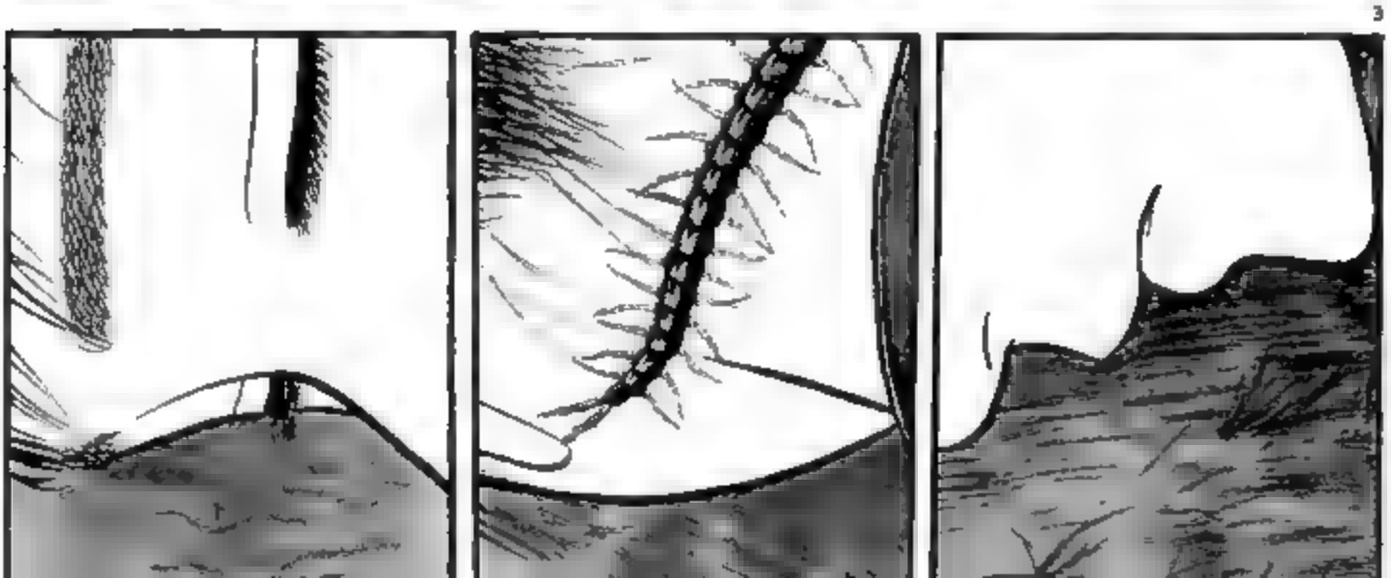
CHAPTER 5: BLIND SPOT

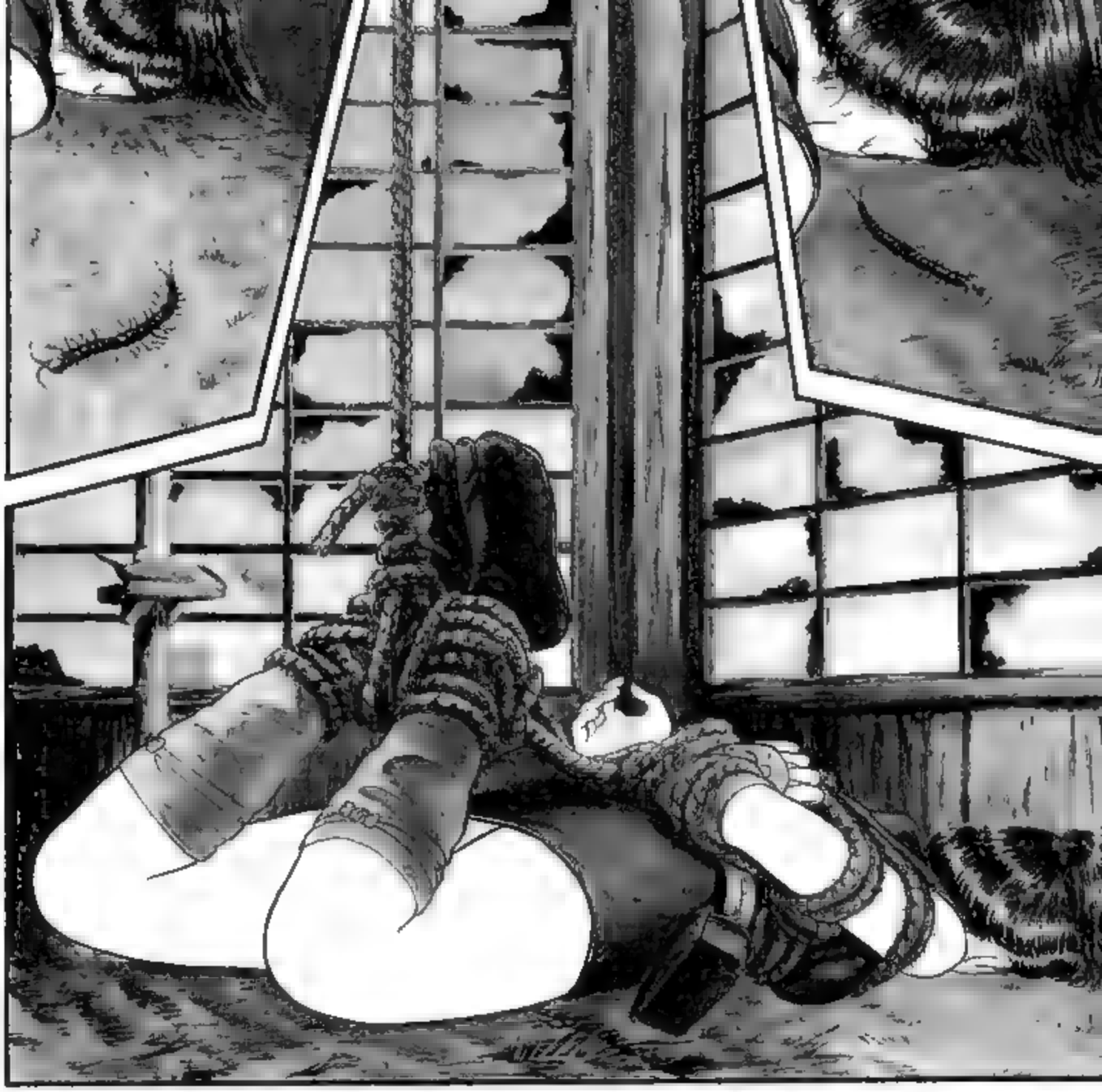










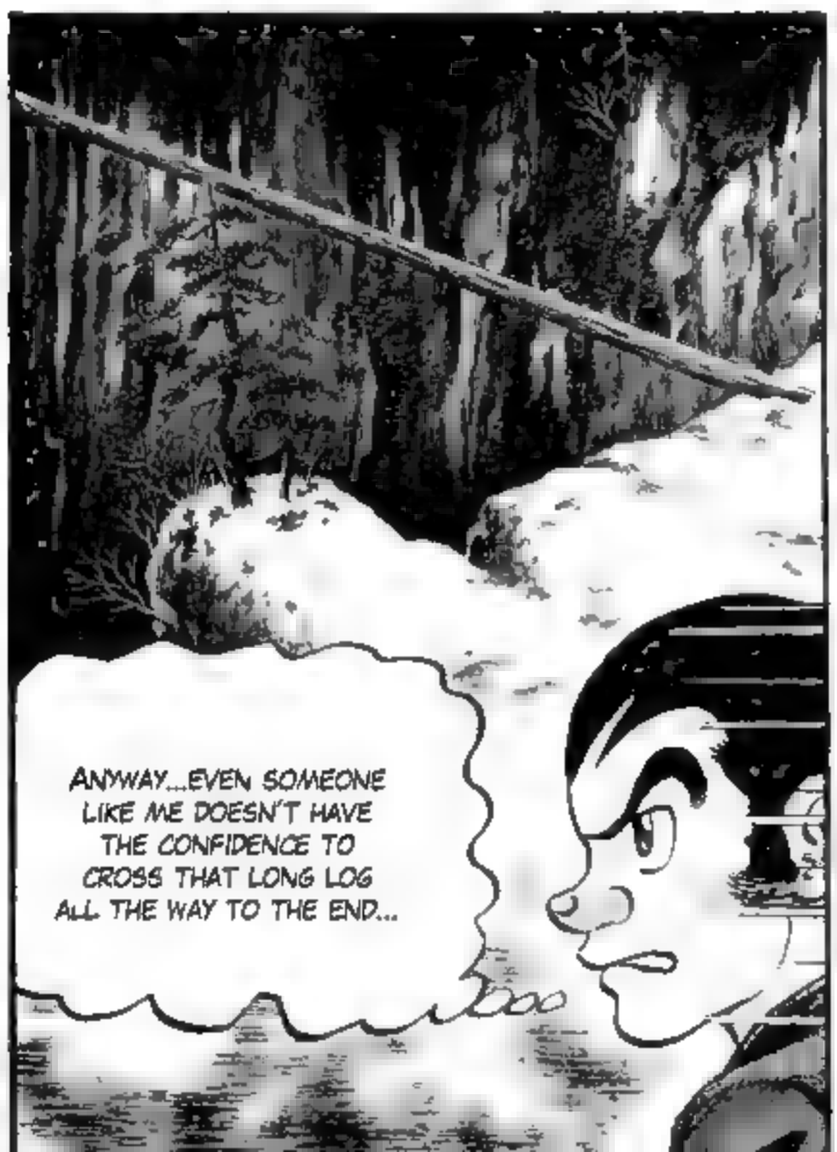


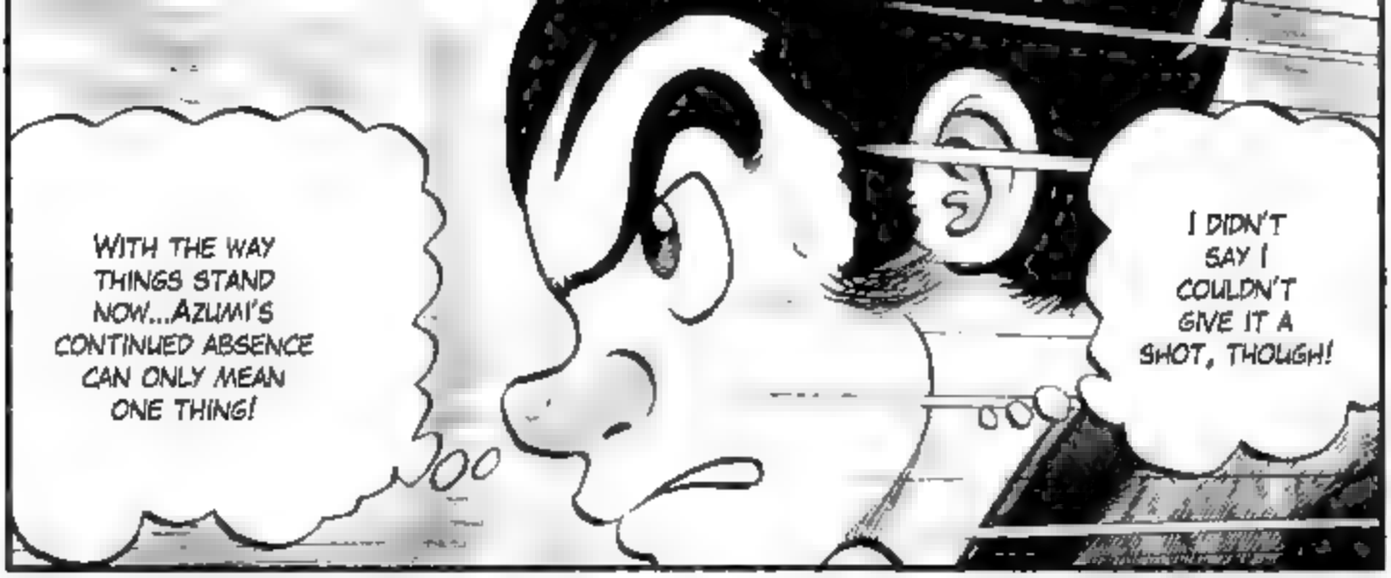





BUT SHE'S TOTALLY IN THE DARK
WHEN IT COMES TO SHIZUNE'S TRUE COLORS!


NO MISTAKE HERE ...
NO MATTER HOW I THINK ON IT...AZUMI MUST'VE GONE TO MEET WITH SHIZUNE!
SHE CROSSED TO THE OTHER SIDE...


ANYWAY...EVEN SOMEONE LIKE ME DOESN'T HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO CROSS THAT LONG LOG ALL THE WAY TO THE END...


WITH THE WAY THINGS STAND NOW...AZUMI'S CONTINUED ABSENCE CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING!
I DIDN'T SAY I COULDN'T GIVE IT A SHOT, THOUGH!


DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE DEAD, AZUMI!
SHIZUNE'S MADE IT SO SHE'S IN NO CONDITION TO RETURN!




I'M GONNA CROSS IT NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!
WAIT FOR ME!


DO YOU THINK WE CAN GRANT OUR FORGIVENESS
TO CRAVEN FOOLS WHO FLEE THE BATTLE?


WE BEG OF YOU! SAVE US!
SHI-ZUNE-SAMAAA!
WAAAAH! I'M SO SCAAARED!
PLEASE! CONVINCE THEM TO STOP THE WAR!
SHIZUNE-SAMAAA!


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SHIZUNE-SAMA! PLEEEEEASE!
HAHAHA! I CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF THIS!
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SHIZUNE-SAMA, SHIZUNE-SAMA, SHIZUNE-SAMA, PROTECT US...
SHIZUNE-SAMAAAAAA!


OHO...


A SHINOBI ...?

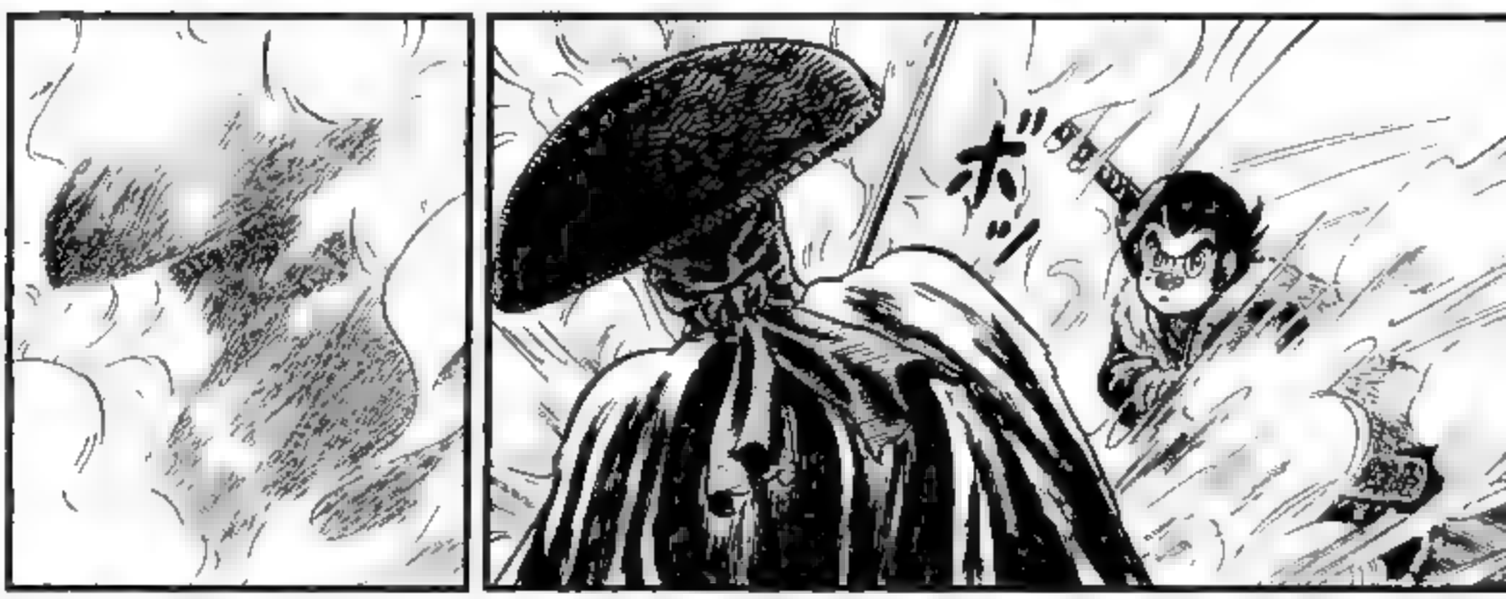

ALL THEY WANTED TO DO WHEN THEY CAME TO THIS DOMAIN WAS KILL TO THEIR HEARTS' CONTENT.
THE RASETSUGARASU.. THEY KILLED EVEN THE WOMEN AND CHILDREN WITHOUT ANY MERCY...




GOTTA CROSS THE LOG TO THE OTHER SIDE NOW!
TSK! I CAN'T KEEP YOU COMPANY!


I'LL EVEN MAKE IT ONE ON ONE!
OHH... WANT TO HAVE A GO?

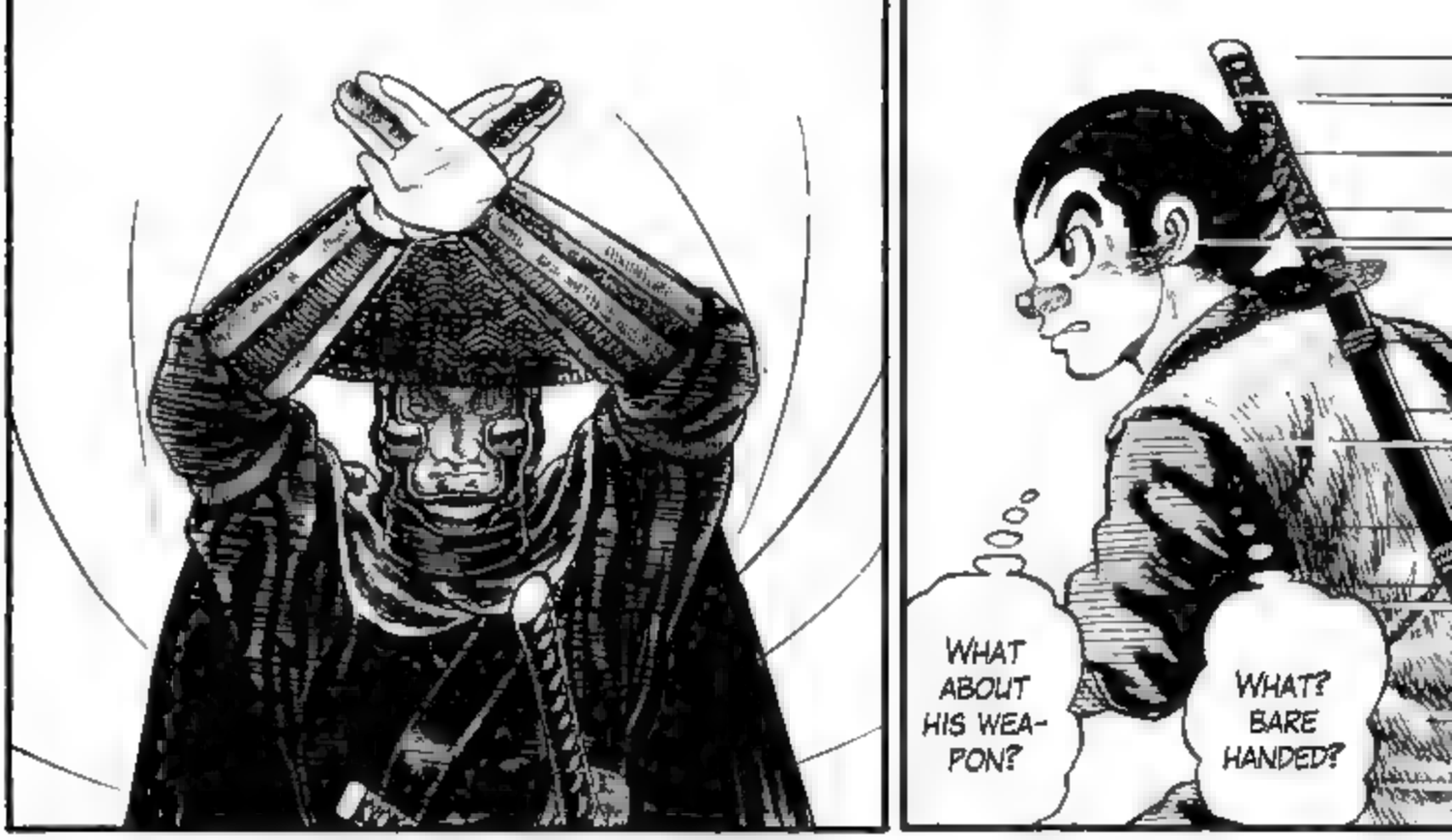



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WHAT ABOUT HIS WEA-PON?
WHAT? BARE HANDED?


IAI PER-HAPS?
WELL, WHAT-EVER IT IS,
I'M NOT PLANNING ON A FIGHT WITH YOU!


THANKS FOR DOING ME THE FAVOR OF BACKING OFF THE BRIDGE!


!!


WH-WHAT DID HE JUST DO!?


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HAHAHAHA!




HAHAHA
HAHAHA!
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COME ON!
SHALL I
AIM AT YOUR
NECK NEXT
TIME!?



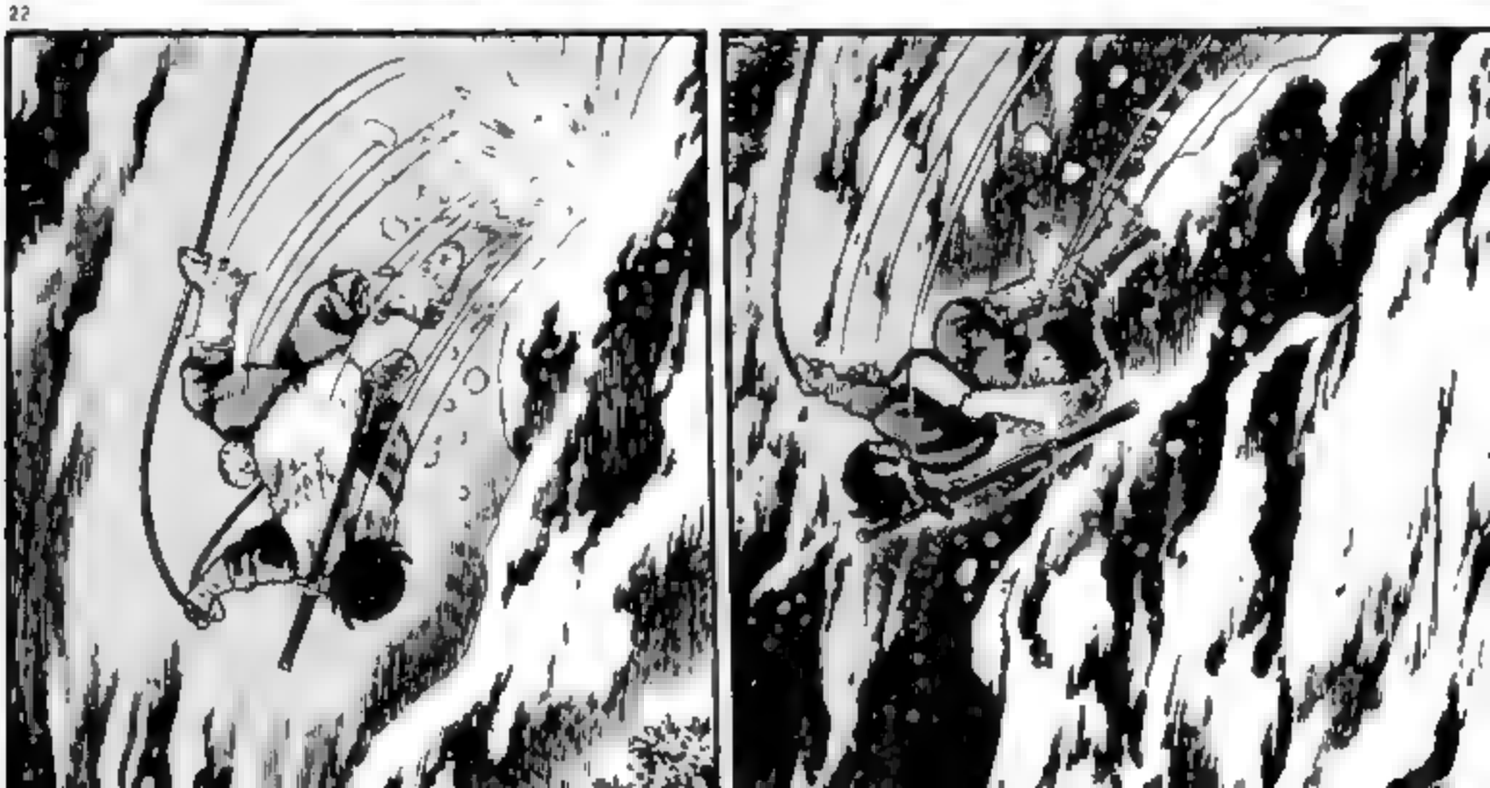

AZUMI
...
SHIIIIT...WITH A WOUND LIKE THIS, I CAN'T FIGHT THREE OPPONENTS.
LET ALONE CROSS THAT BRIDGE!


AZUMI
...
AM I... GOING TO DIE...HERE?






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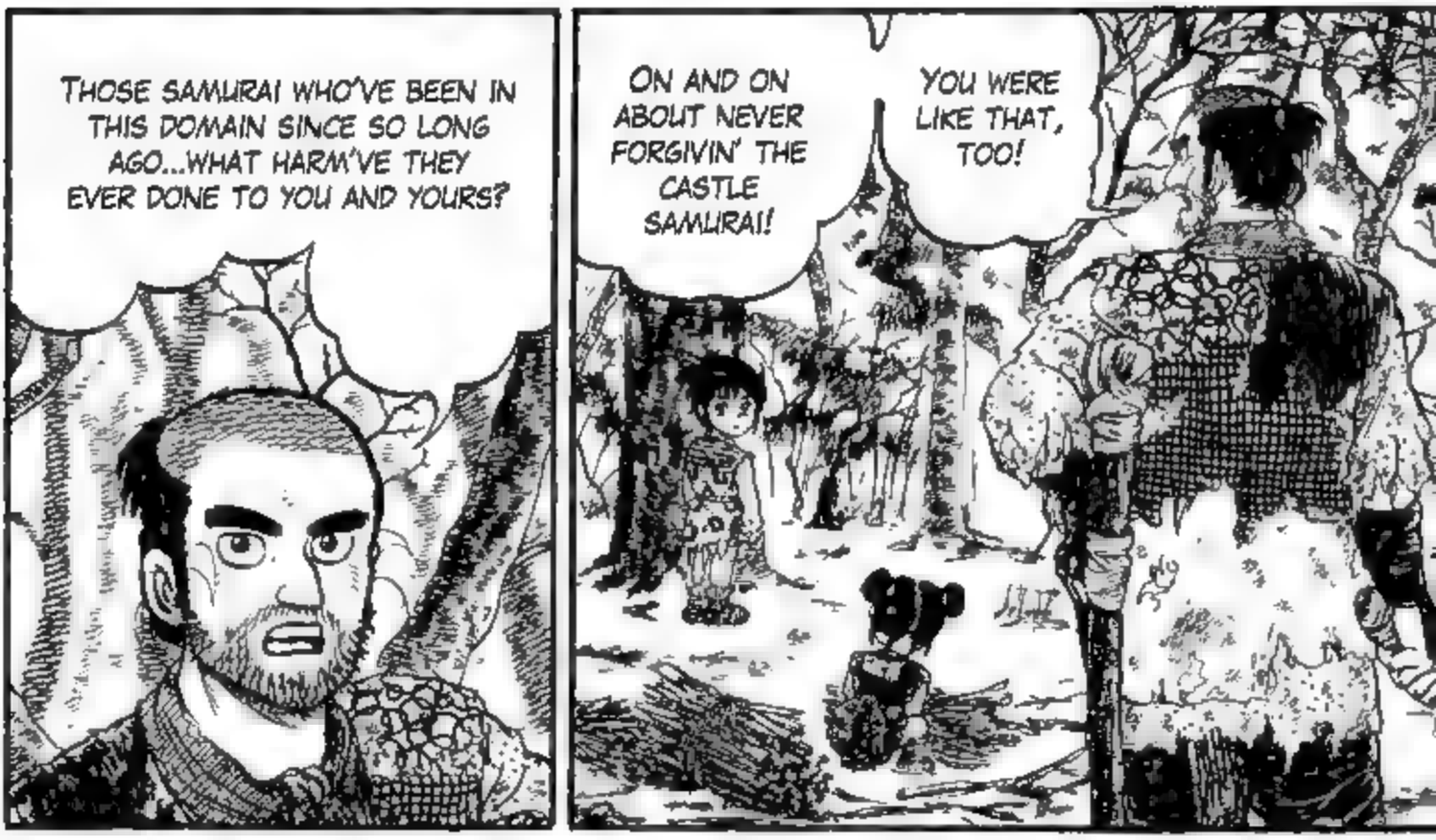

IT'S SUCH A STUPID FIGHT AT THAT!
DON'T GO AND WATCH THE BATTLE.
YES, THAT'S GOOD.
.....


EVERYBODY JUST STARTED BLABBING ABOUT SUCH COMPLICATED STUFF!


"IDEAL" THIS... "IDEAL COUNTRY" THAT!


AND THE LORD IS THE REASON FOR ALL'A THIS...
THEY SAY THE CASTLE SAMURAI ARE BAD,
AND IN THE END,


SAID THE CASTLE SAMURAI WERE EVIL AND THEY HAD TA KILL 'EM, AND GOT MORE AND MORE VIOLENT...
EVERY TIME AFTER COMING BACK FROM THOSE MEETINGS...THEY ALL


THOSE SAMURAI WHO'VE BEEN IN THIS DOMAIN SINCE SO LONG AGO...WHAT HARM'VE THEY EVER DONE TO YOU AND YOURS?
ON AND ON ABOUT NEVER FORGIVIN' THE CASTLE SAMURAI!
YOU WERE LIKE THAT, TOO!


YOU DON'T GET IT ANYMORE!
D-DAD, BECAUSE YOU BROKE YOUR LEG YOU'VE BEEN MISSING THE MEETINGS FOR A LONG TIME...
THAT'S WHY!
.....
.....


AHH!




CASTLE SAMURAI !!!




THE FACT THAT YOU ARE HERE AND NOT WEARING A WHITE COAT
MEANS YOU DON'T INTEND TO JOIN THE BATTLE?
NO...IT'S LIKELY DUE TO HIS LEG INJURY...


AT ANY RATE...WE PLAN TO ESCAPE TONIGHT.
IT'D BE WISE TO FIND A HIDING PLACE.


WE WON'T HARM YOU IN ANY WAY! YOU HAVE OUR WORD!
WE BEG YOUR AID!
IS YOUR HOUSE NEAR HERE!?


THE SHED OF YOUR HOUSE WOULD BE FINE TOO. PLEASE, COULD YOU LEND US A PLACE WHERE WE CAN HIDE UNTIL DARK!?
WE BEG OF YOU!


I AM VERY SORRY TO BE OF ANY BOTHER TO YOU ...


.....
.....


.....
.....

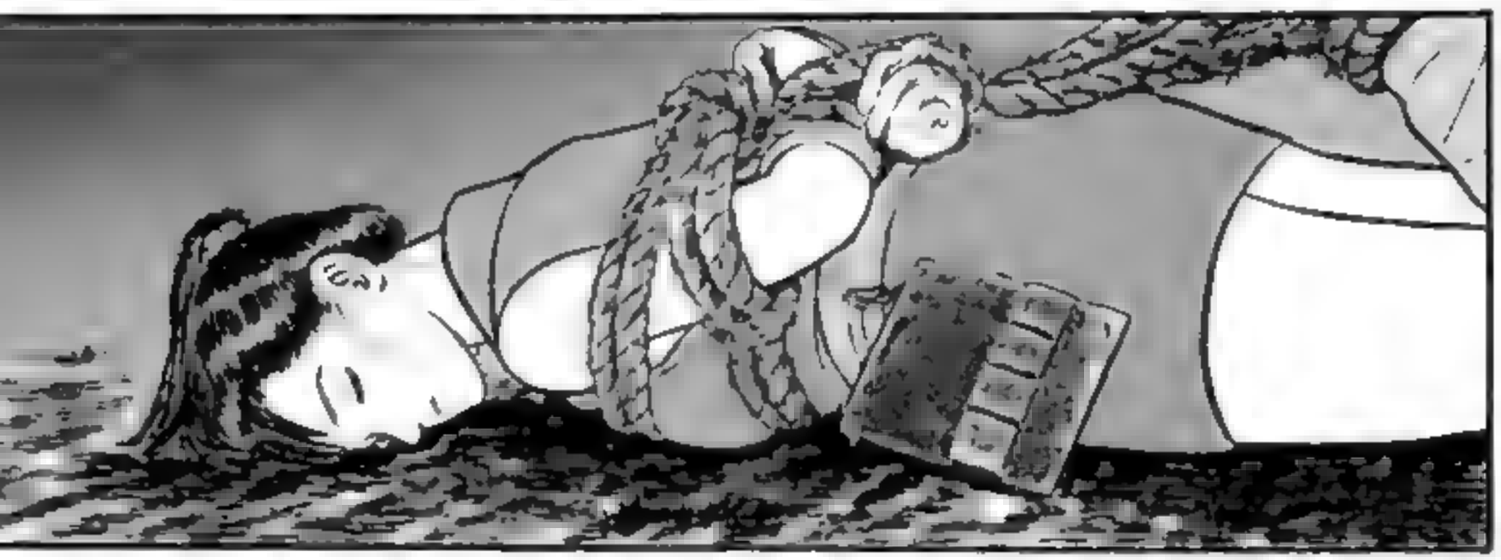













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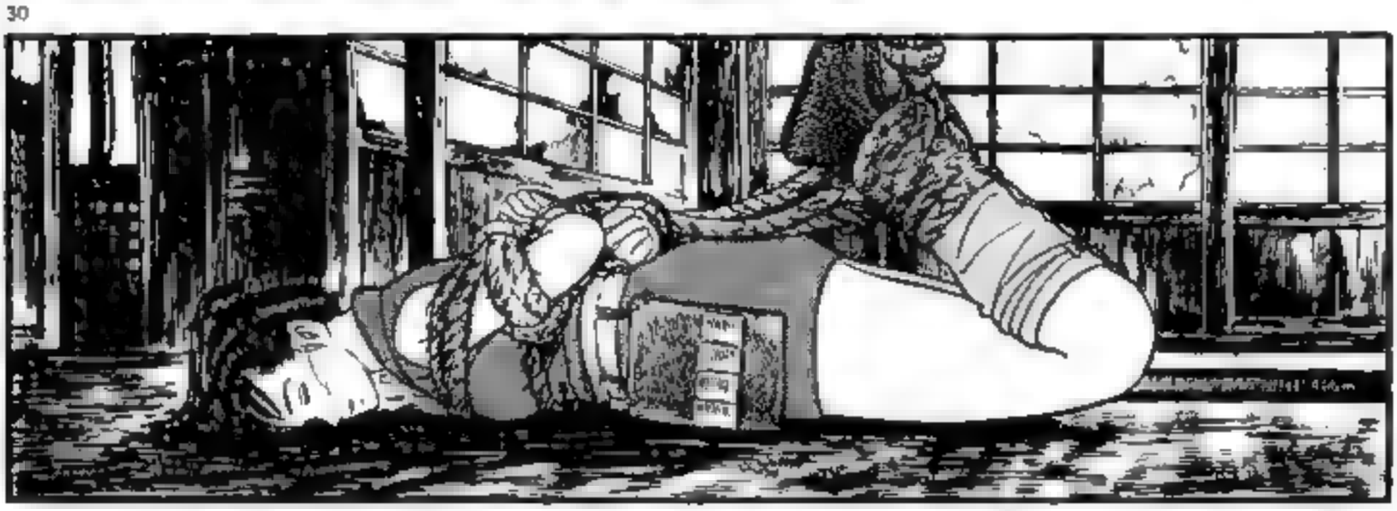

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HAHAHAHA! OH, JEEZ... EVERYTHING IS JUST MOVING ALONG RIGHT WHERE WE WANT IT TO!
TOMORROW, BOTH SIDES ARE GONNA CLASH AT KAZUNO-GAHARA WITHOUT A DOUBT!

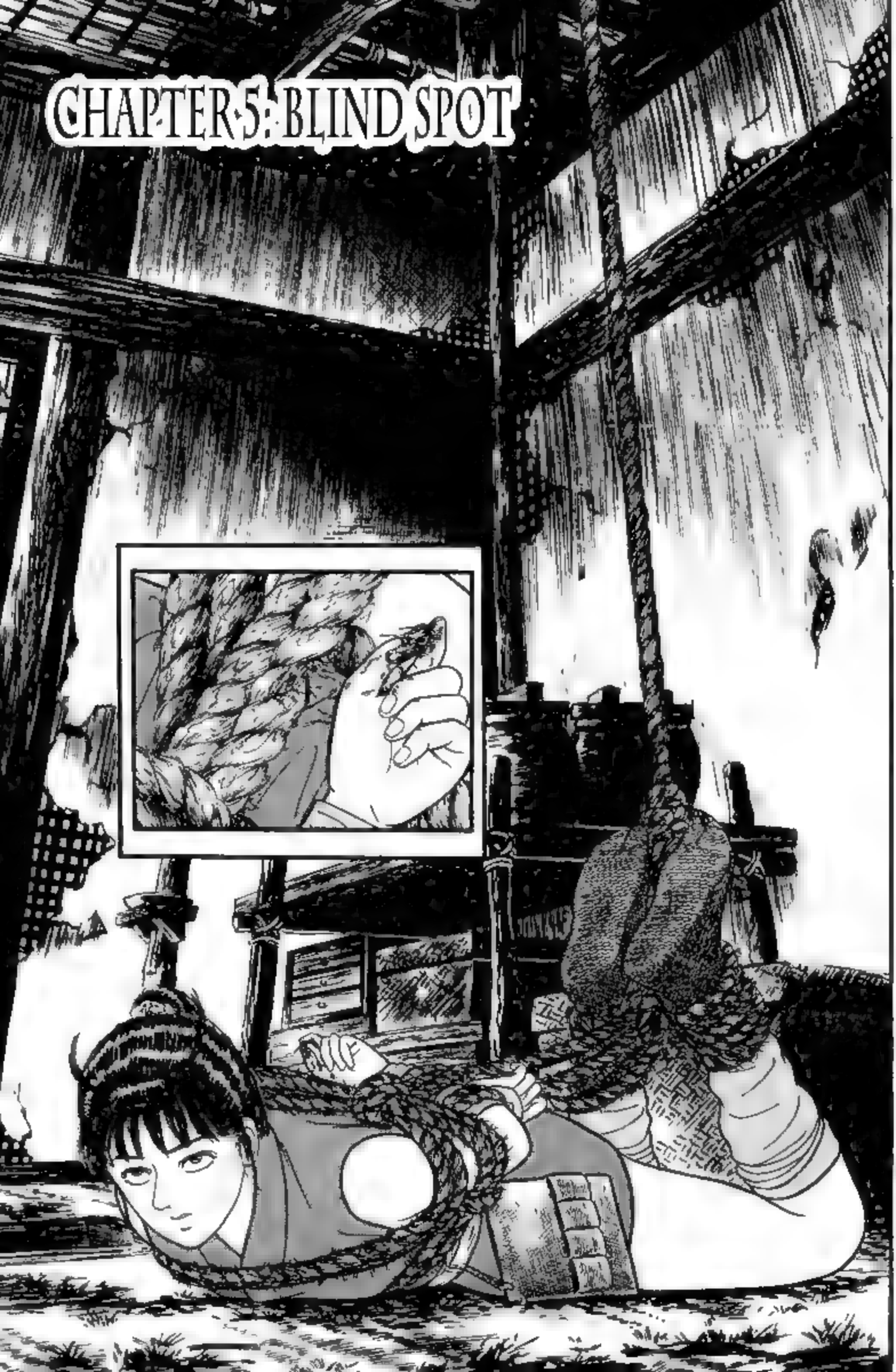


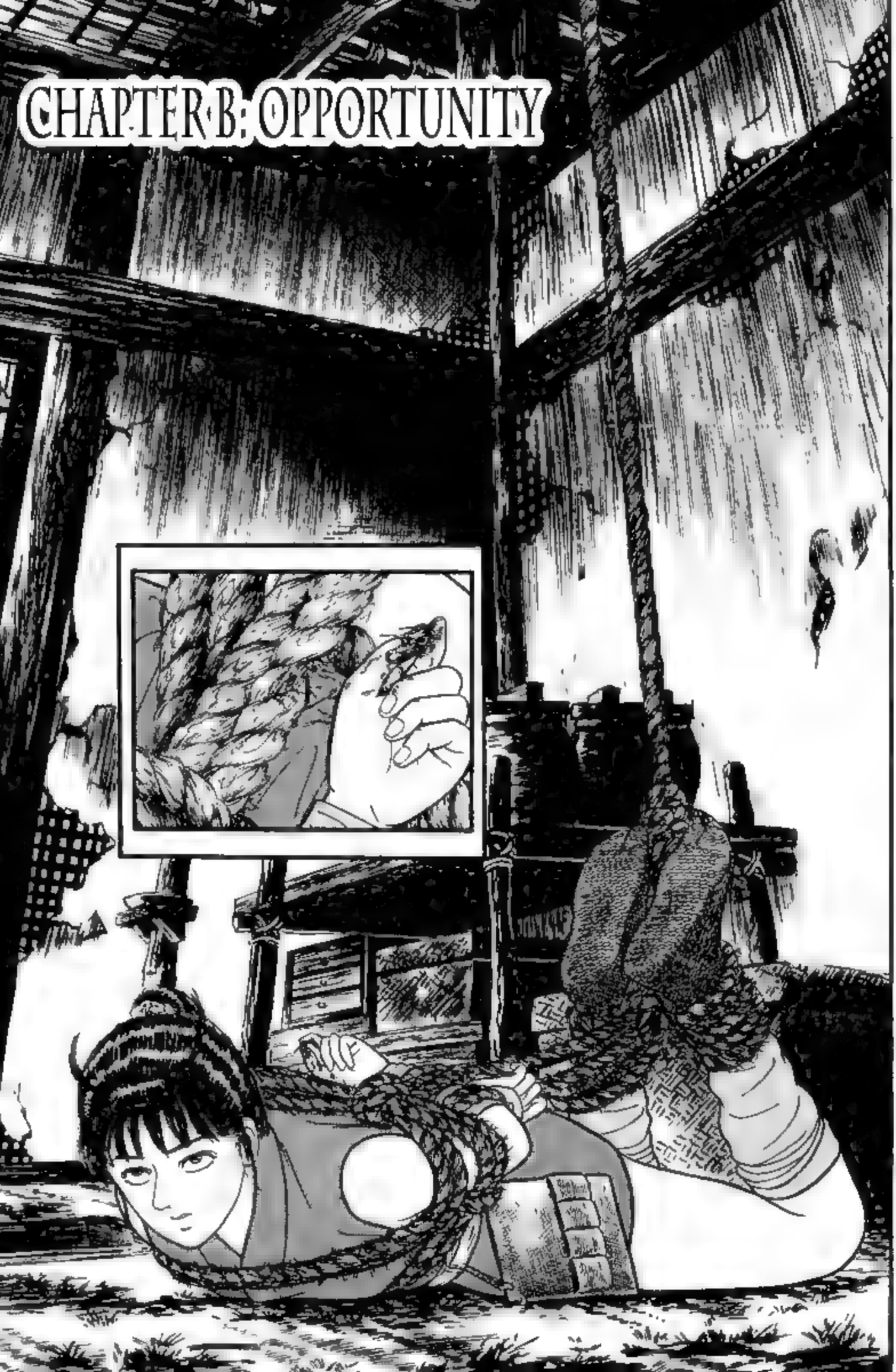


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CHAPTER 5: BLIND SPOT




CHAPTER 8: OPPORTUNITY

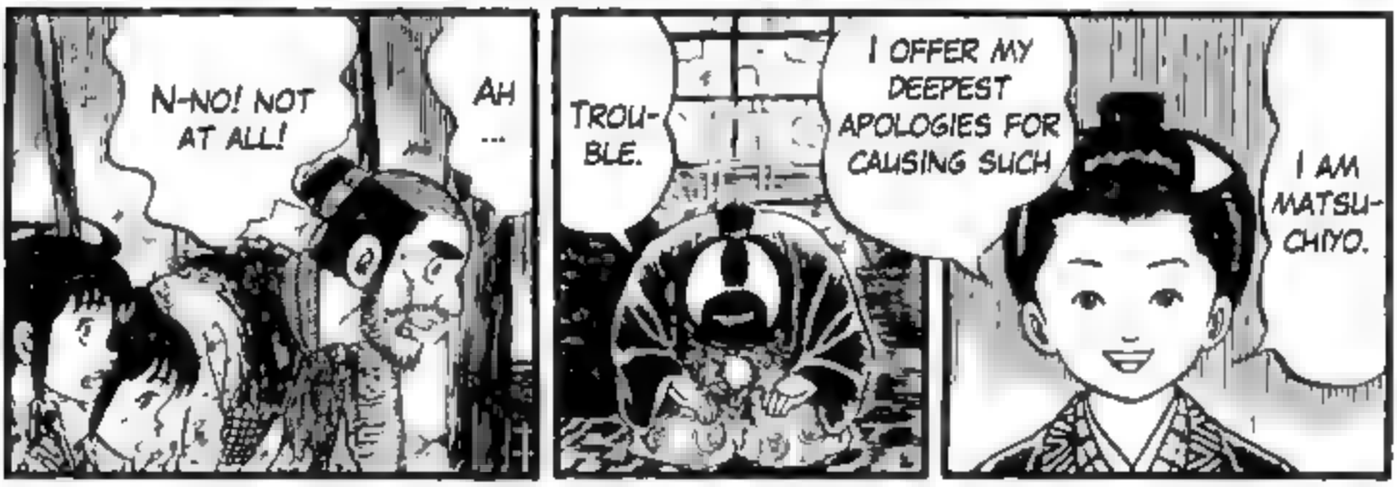

WE'RE HOME, NAKA!
YOU SHOULD BE TIRED OF WAITING! HAHAH!

2


C'MON, AZUMI!
MAKE US ENJOY THIS SOME MORE!


IT'S JUST A NARROW ROOM...
YOU HAVE OUR GRAT-ITUDE.
WHEN NIGHT FALLS, WE WILL DEPART.
WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONV-ENIENCE.
AS WE'RE IN YOUR DEBT, WE WILL TELL YOU WHO WE ARE.

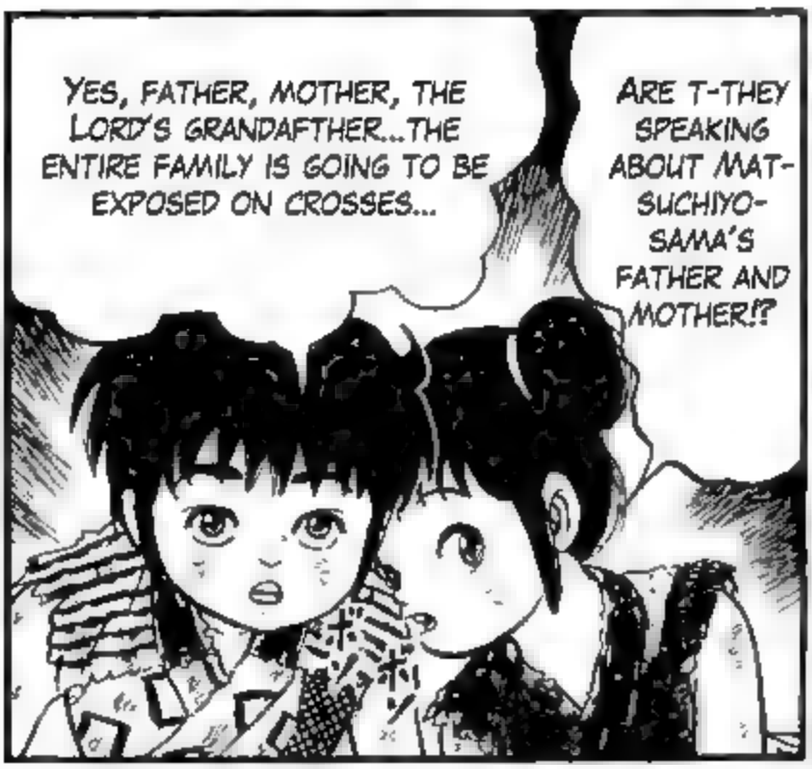

AHH!
THIS PERSON IS THE YOUNG LORD, TERUTOMO-SAMA'S ELDEST SON, MATSUCHIYO-SAMA.


N-NO! NOT AT ALL!
AH ...
TROU-BLE.
I OFFER MY DEEPEST APOLOGIES FOR CAUSING SUCH
I AM MATSU-CHIYO.


.....
PLEASE MAKE YOURSELVES COMFORT-ABLE.
I-IT'S A DIRTY PLACE, BUT...


.....
SEE? I TOLD YOU!


THE ENTIRE FAMILY AT KAZUNOGAHARA...
THEY ARE SENTENCED TO HANG ON CROSSES.
AND WE'VE BEEN TOLD THAT ON THE MORROW...
REGRETTABLY, AT PRESENT, THE LORD, THE YOUNG LORD AND THE PRINCESS... ARE ALL IN GENSAI'S HANDS...


YES, FATHER, MOTHER, THE LORD'S GRANDAFTHER...THE ENTIRE FAMILY IS GOING TO BE EXPOSED ON CROSSES...
ARE T-THEY SPEAKING ABOUT MATSUCHIYO-SAMA'S FATHER AND MOTHER!?
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T-THE LORD ON A CROSS!?
!!


ONLY MATSUCHIYO-SAMA COULD ESCAPE WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY AT THAT! WE MUST PROTECT HIM AT ALL COSTS!



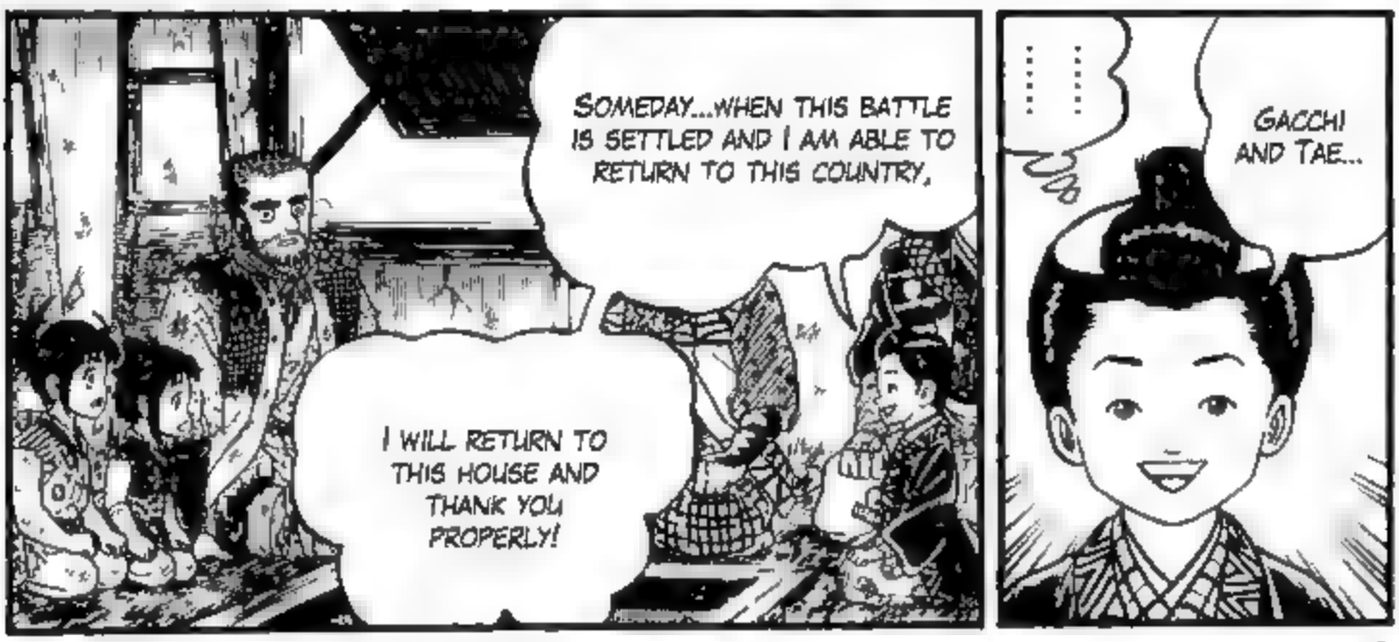

TONIGHT, WE FLEE THIS COUNTRY!


DON'T YOU CONSIDER US YOUR ENEMIES?


REALLY...I WONDER WHAT'S GOTTEN INTA ALL THE OTHERS...
THAT'S RIGHT!
TO ME...NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT, I GOT NO REASON TO REGARD THE CASTE OF NOBLE SAMURAI AS ENEMIES...


WE'RE SO GRATEFUL!
THANK YOU...


I'M TAE!
EVERYONE CALLS BIG BRO GACCHI!
WHAT ARE YOUR NAMES?
WE SEEM TO BE MORE OR LESS THE SAME AGE..


I WILL RETURN TO THIS HOUSE AND THANK YOU PROPERLY!
SOMEDAY...WHEN THIS BATTLE IS SETTLED AND I AM ABLE TO RETURN TO THIS COUNTRY,
GACCHI AND TAE...

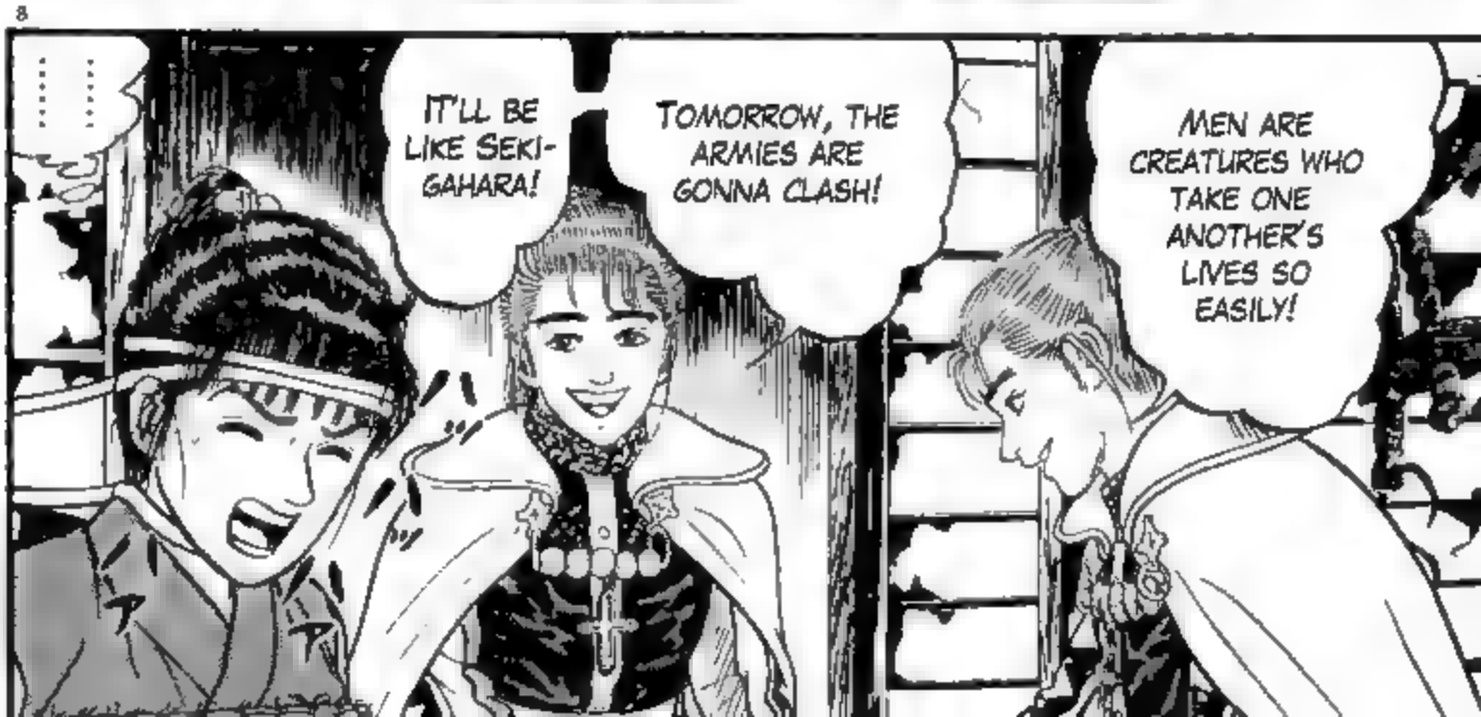

THEY MUSN'T KNOW A THING ABOUT ALL THIS!
THE VILLAGERS ARE OUT TO BATTLE, BUT IN TURNS, THEY'RE GONNA COME BACK FOR PROVISIONS.
YOU GET IT?


AZUMI WASN'T YOUR MISSION TO STOP THE WAR...?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! HAHA HAHAHAHA!


THINGS ARE GETTING SO INTERESTING OVER THERE!

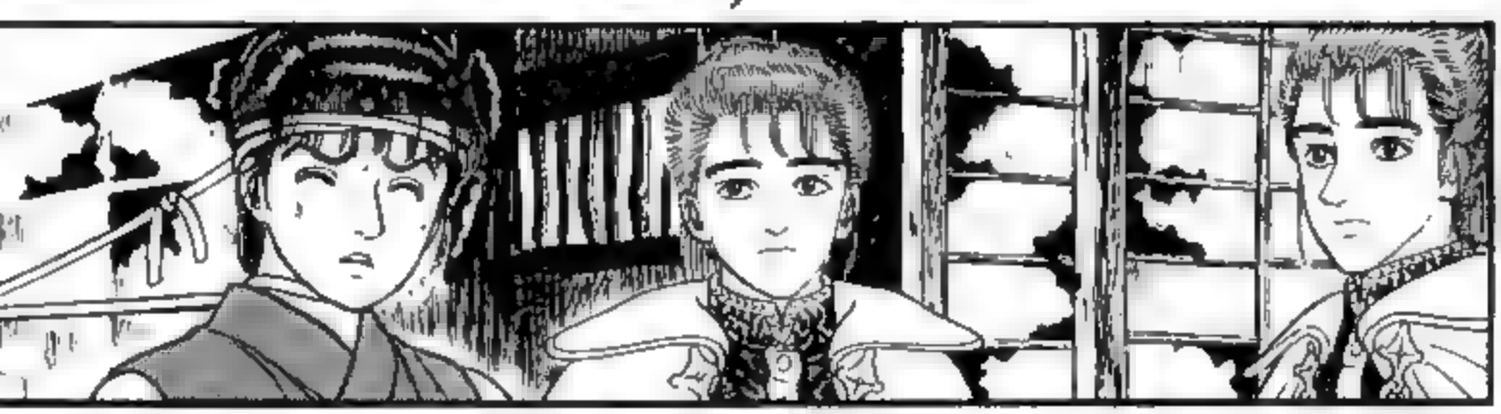

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SO YOU LOOOOSE, AZUMI!


.....
IT'LL BE LIKE SEKI-GAHARA!
TOMORROW, THE ARMIES ARE GONNA CLASH!
MEN ARE CREATURES WHO TAKE ONE ANOTHER'S LIVES SO EASILY!


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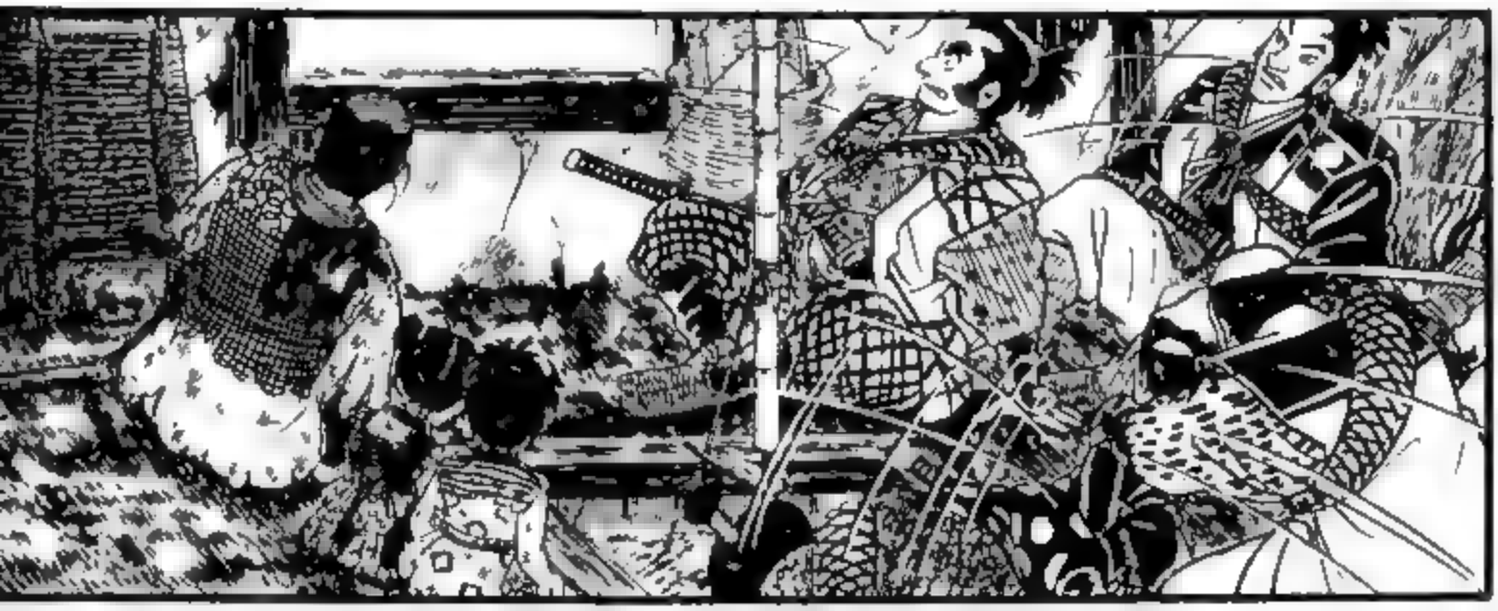

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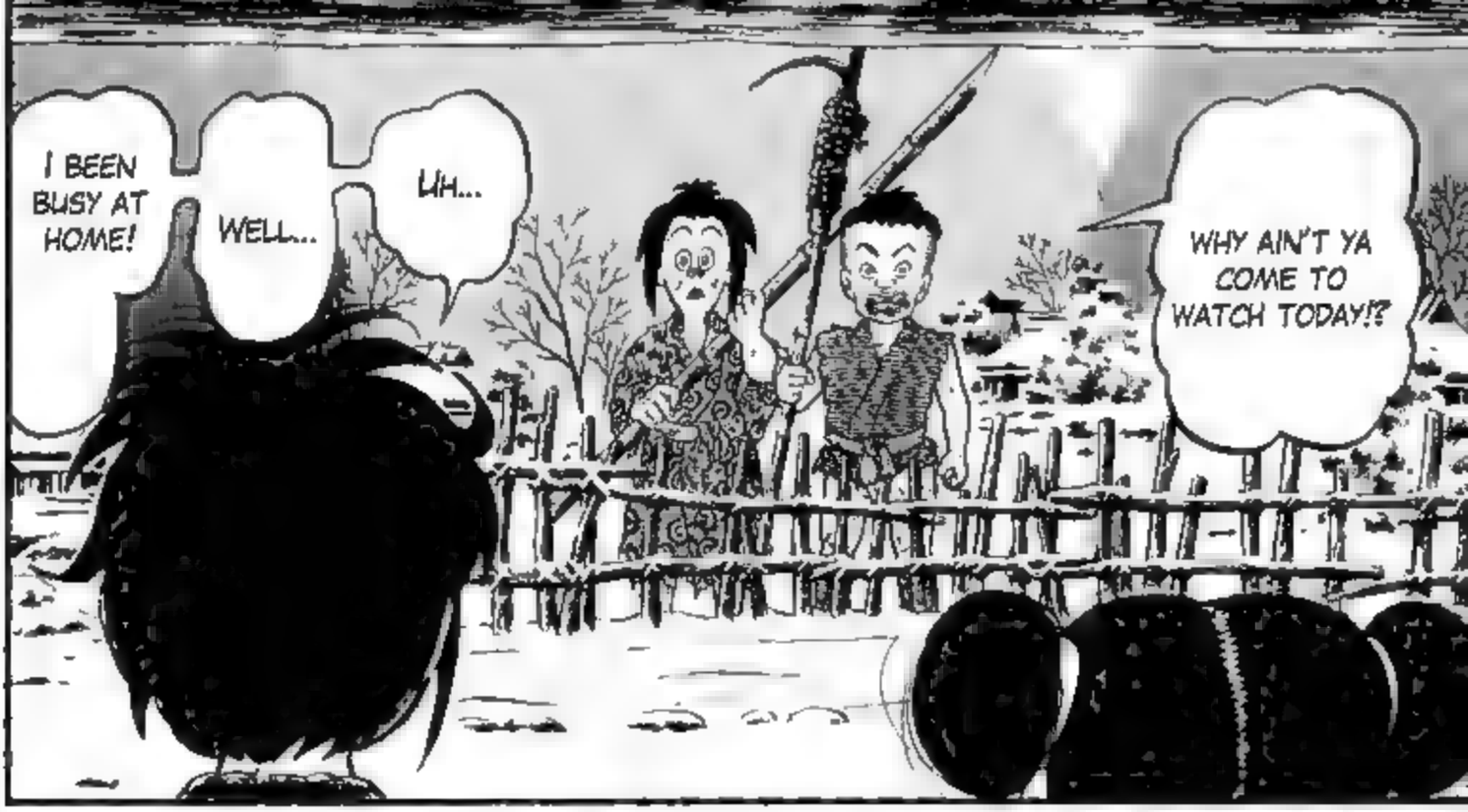

AT THIS RATE...
I GUESS SHE'S GONNA BE STUBBORN AND NOT EAT TILL SHE DIES...


HEEEEY!
GAAACHI!




WHAT
!?


BE VERY CAREFUL THEY DON'T UP AND COME IN HERE ON A WHIM!
THERE AIN'T NO PLACE TO HIDE 'EM! SO MAKE SURE THOSE FOLK DON'T COME NEAR HERE!
.....


I BEEN BUSY AT HOME!
WELL...
UH...
WHY AIN'T YA COME TO WATCH TODAY!?



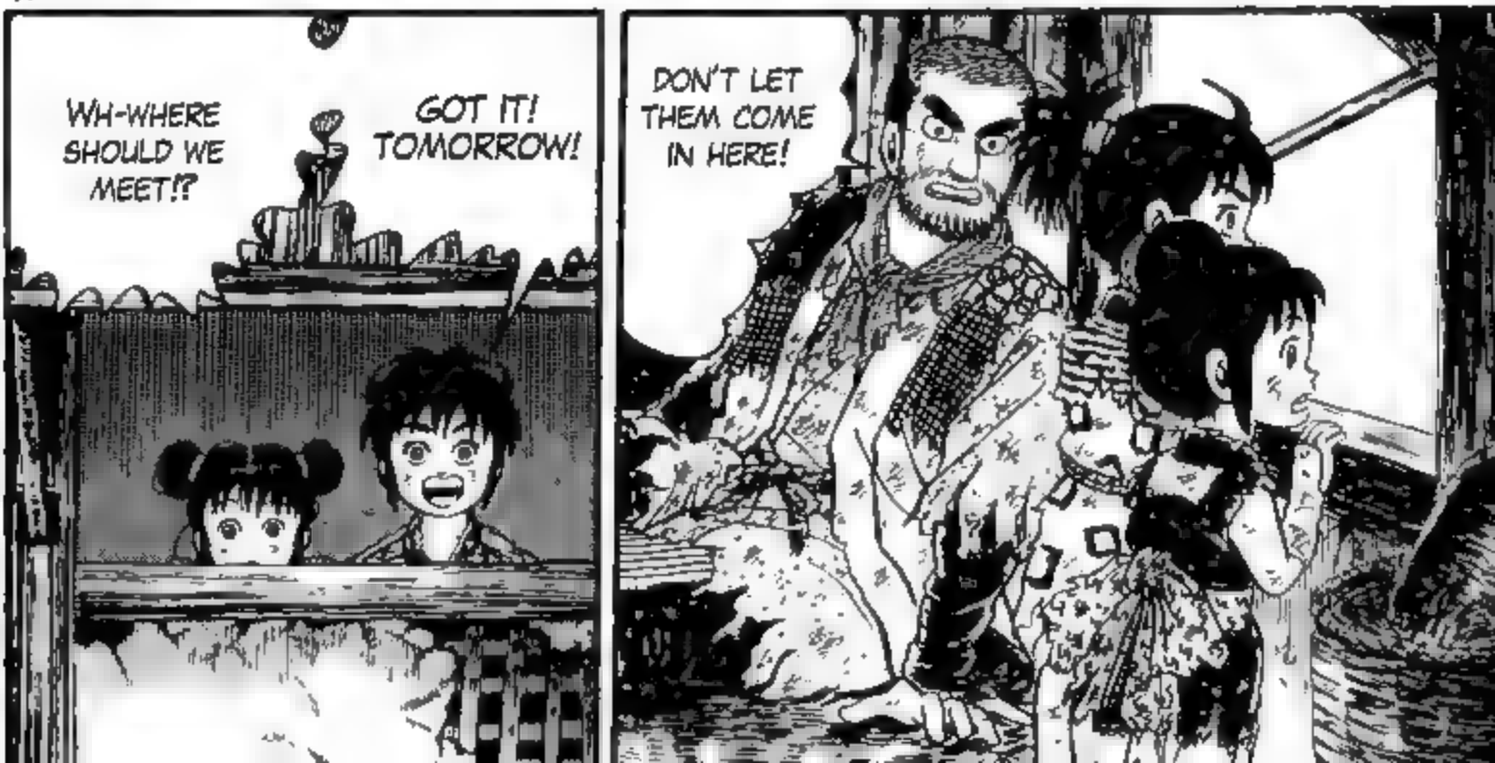

YOU COME TOO, GACCHI !!!
WE'RE GONNA FIGHT!
Y'KNOW! WE KIDS DON'T ONLY GOTTA WATCH!


HOW MANY PEOPLE DID YA GATHER!?
AH! INO-SAN!
IT'S TOMORROW!


HE'S A NIMBLE ONE! HE'S GONNA BE A REAL HELP!
OHHHH, GACCHI!
GACCHI JUST SIGNED UP!
WE'RE STILL RECURITIN'!


IT'S TRUE! THE GROWN UPS ARE GONNA FIGHT AT KAZUNOGAHARA!
GACCHI, DO IT LIKE THIS, TOO! MAKE YOUR OWN WEAPON DURING THE NIGHT!!
SO WE'RE GONNA ATTACK THOSE JERKS WITH OUR SQUAD MADE UP'A JUST US KIDS!
BUT THERE'S GONNA BE FOLK WHO UP AND FLED INSIDE THE MANSION FOR SURE!


I'M GETTIN' REVENGE FER MY DAD!
WE MUSTN'T LET ANY OF THOSE CASTLE SAMURAI LEAVE ALIVE!! DOESN'T EVEN MATTER IF THEY'RE WOMEN OR CHILDREN!!
WE'RE THE ONES WHO'RE GONNA DEAL WITH THE CHILDREN'A THE CASTLE SAMURAI!


DON'T LET THEM COME IN HERE!
WH-WHERE SHOULD WE MEET!?
GOT IT! TOMORROW!


WHAT ABOUT YER PA? CAN HE MOVE YET!?
GOT IT!
IN FRONT OF INARI-SAN'S!


THE ONES HE USES FER HUNTIN'! THOSE'LL MAKE MIGHTY FINE WEAPONS!
OH, RIGHT! LEND ME YER DA'S SPECIAL BOW AND ARROWS!
NO...


I JUST CAN'T LEND YA THOSE!
NO!!
TH-THEY'RE COMIN'!!


THAS' RIGHT!
EVERY-ONE IS FIGHTING!
BUT THAT'S NON-SENSE!


JUST WHAT'S WRONG WITH YA!? GIMME THE BOW'N ARROWS!
YA CAN'T GO FIGHT AND YA WON'T EVEN LEND A HAND!?
COMING... THEY'RE COMING...


NO...IF THEY SCREAM AND PEOPLE COME RUNNING, WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT...
IF THEY FIND US WE'LL JUST FLEE... BUT...FOR YOU, THINGS WILL TURN SOUR FROM NOW ON...


THE BOW AND ARROWS AIN'T HERE! THEY'RE IN A SHED OUT BACK!


.....
GO GET 'EM!
AAH...THEY'E GONNA FIND 'EM!
DON'T TELL ME YER SCARED T'FIGHT!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE YA BROKE YET LEG! IS IT REALLY NOT BETTER YET!?

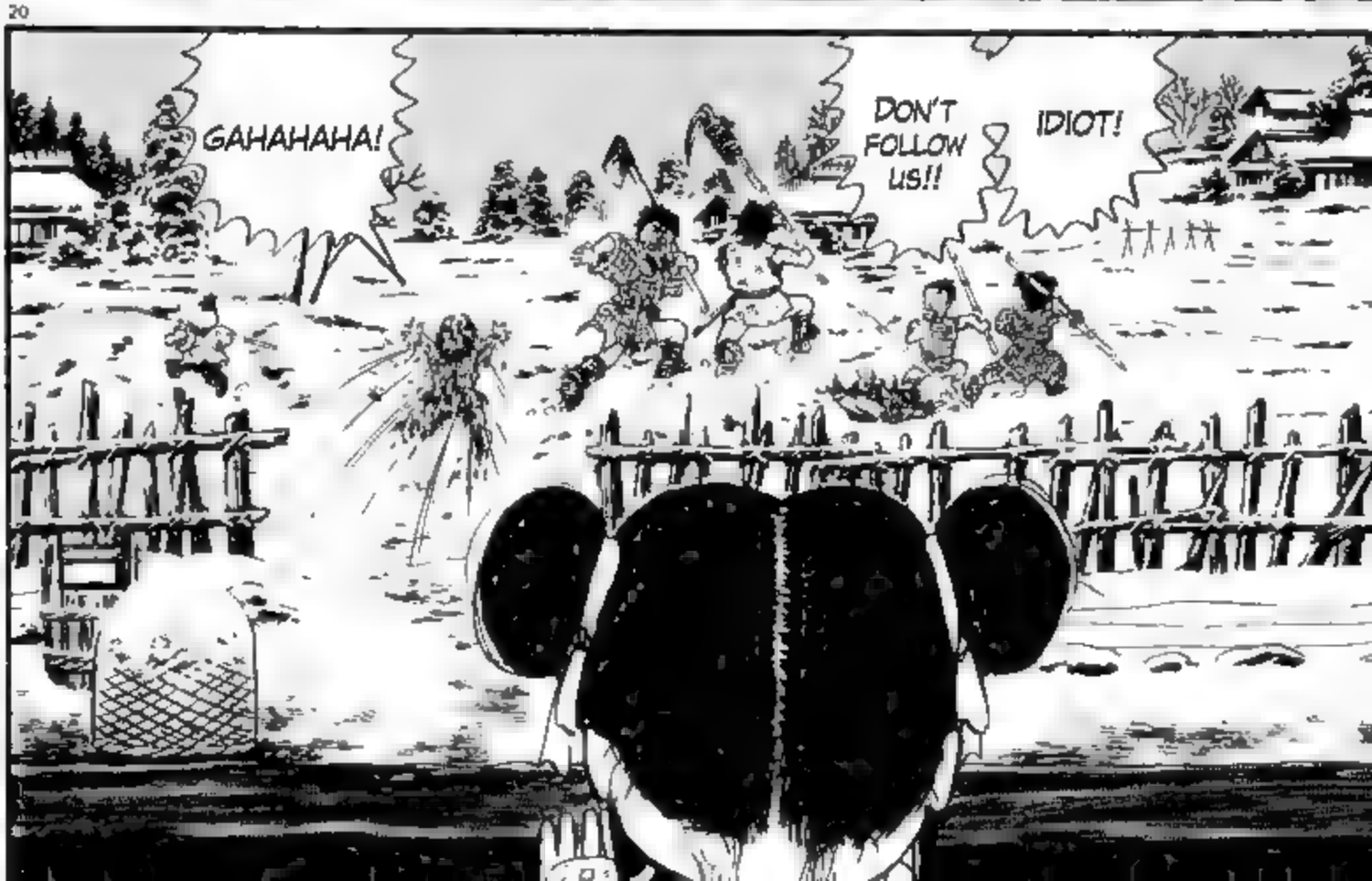

WHEN I BROKE MY LEG, THE BOW'S STRING SNAPPED, TOO!
IT'S STILL LIKE THAT! UNFIXED!
THAT'S WHY YA CAN'T USE IT!


GACCHI FELL INTO THE MANURE PIT!
GAH!
あわわ…


STOP!
AH!


WAA AAA AAA AAA AAAA AAA AAH !!!


UAAAAAAH!
DAMMIT! I FELL IN!!!
BUT I REALLY WANNA COME WITH YOU!
YA STINK!
DUN COME NO CLOSER, YA IDIOT!

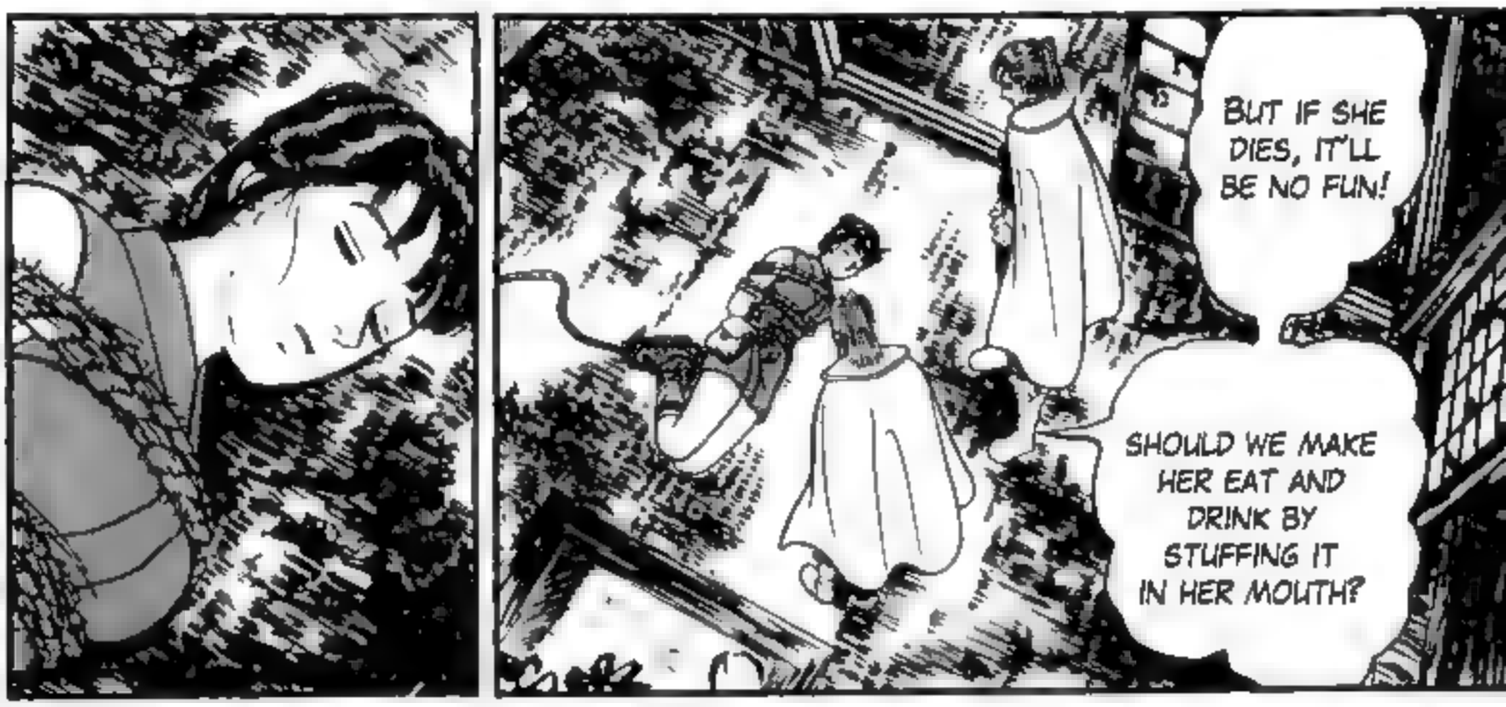

GAHAHAHA!
DON'T FOLLOW US!!
IDIOT!


.....




.....
.....
.....
GACCHI.. DIRTIED HIS BODY...
SO MUCH... ON PURPOSE...
TO DRIVE THEM OFF...


SEEMS SHE'S EVEN LOST THE DRIVE TO TALK BACK.
SHE'S PRETTY WEAK...
BUT SHE'S STUBBORN. SHE LIKELY INTENDS TO KEEP NOT EATING.


BUT IF SHE DIES, IT'LL BE NO FUN!
SHOULD WE MAKE HER EAT AND DRINK BY STUFFING IT IN HER MOUTH?


LMMM... YOU MIGHT BE ON TO SOME-THING.


OOOH, RIGHT!
WE GET TO SEE THE CONFLICT BETWEEN HER PRIDE AND HER DESIRES!
IF WE DO THAT, THEN THIS TIME...
LET'S LET NAKA GO AND HAVE AZUMI EAT ALONE.
FEEDING HER LIKE THAT WOULD BE A BOTHER...

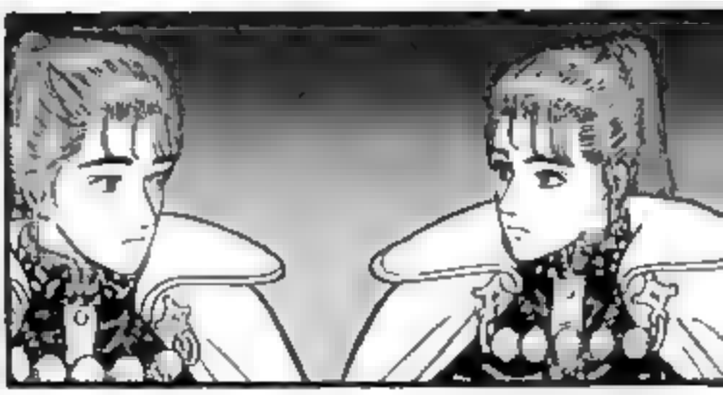

SOOO... WE CAN SEE...
AZUMI ABANDON HER STUBBORN PRIDE...
AND EAT LIKE A GREEDY BEAST...?

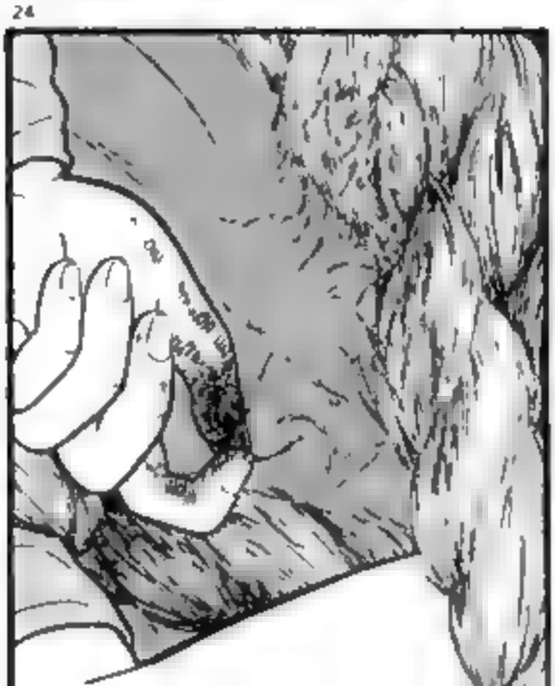






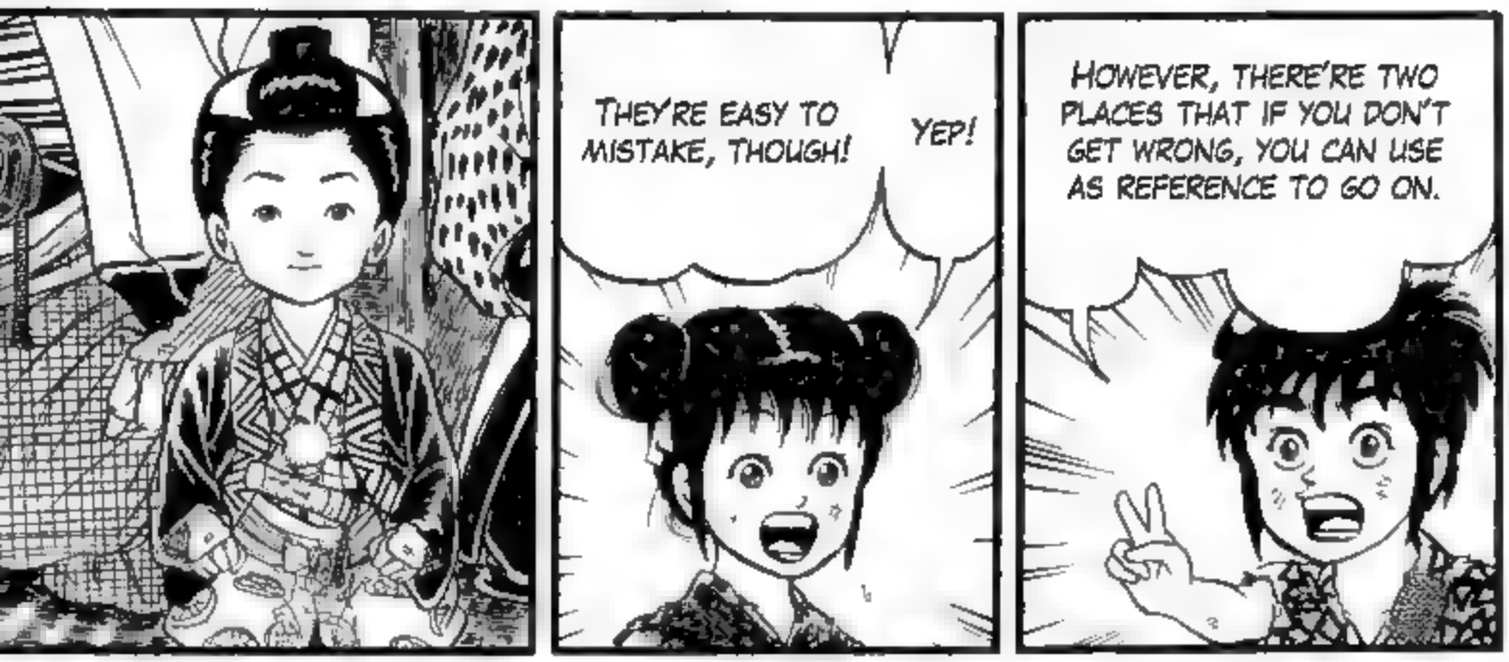









IF YA GET LOST...
IF NIGHT FALLS, IT'LL BE HARD T'TELL.
TO THE LAND'S BORDERS, BUT...
BY THE OTHER VILLAGERS, THERE'S ONLY ONE PATH IN THE MOUNTAINS THAT LEADS
TO AVOID BEIN' SEEN
YOU COULD GO IN A CIRCLE AND GO BACK TO THE VILLAGE!


THEY'RE EASY TO MISTAKE, THOUGH!
YEP!
HOWEVER, THERE'RE TWO PLACES THAT IF YOU DON'T GET WRONG, YOU CAN USE AS REFERENCE TO GO ON.


WHILE IT'S STILL LIGHT OUT, WHAT DO YOU THINK IF SOMEONE GOES TO MEMORIZE THOSE TWO SPOTS NOW!?


THEIR FOOT-PRINTS!
NO DOUBT.
HAHAHAHA BECAUSE THEY'VE JUST PASSED THROUGH A PLACE WITH NO SIGNS OF LIFE, THEY'RE IN PLAIN VIEW!!



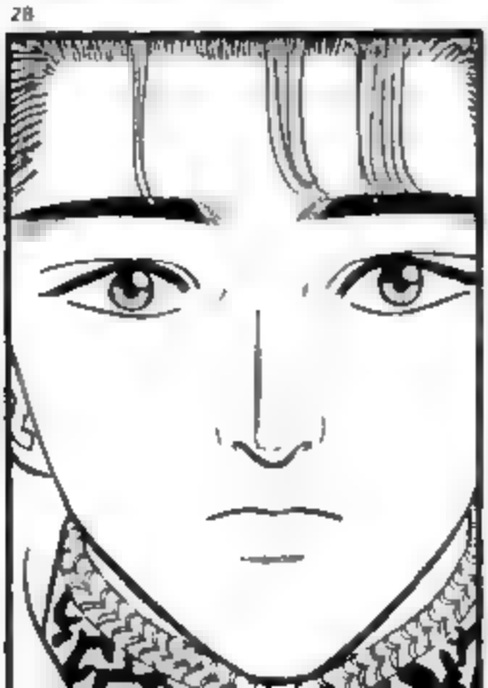

THEY SAID THAT THEY'RE THE MOST SKILLED AMONG THE CASTLE SAMURAI.
FIVE OR SIX SKILLED VASSALS BROKE THE SIEGE...
THEY SAY THAT TO PROTECT TO THE END THE YOUNG REMAINING HEIR,


HEHEEHE HEHEEHE...
AREN'T THEY JUST A FINE TREAT FOR US...?


PLANNING TO CHOOSE HER PRIDE OVER HER LIFE...
YEAH...
SHE'S MORE PROUD A WOMAN THAN WE THOUGHT...

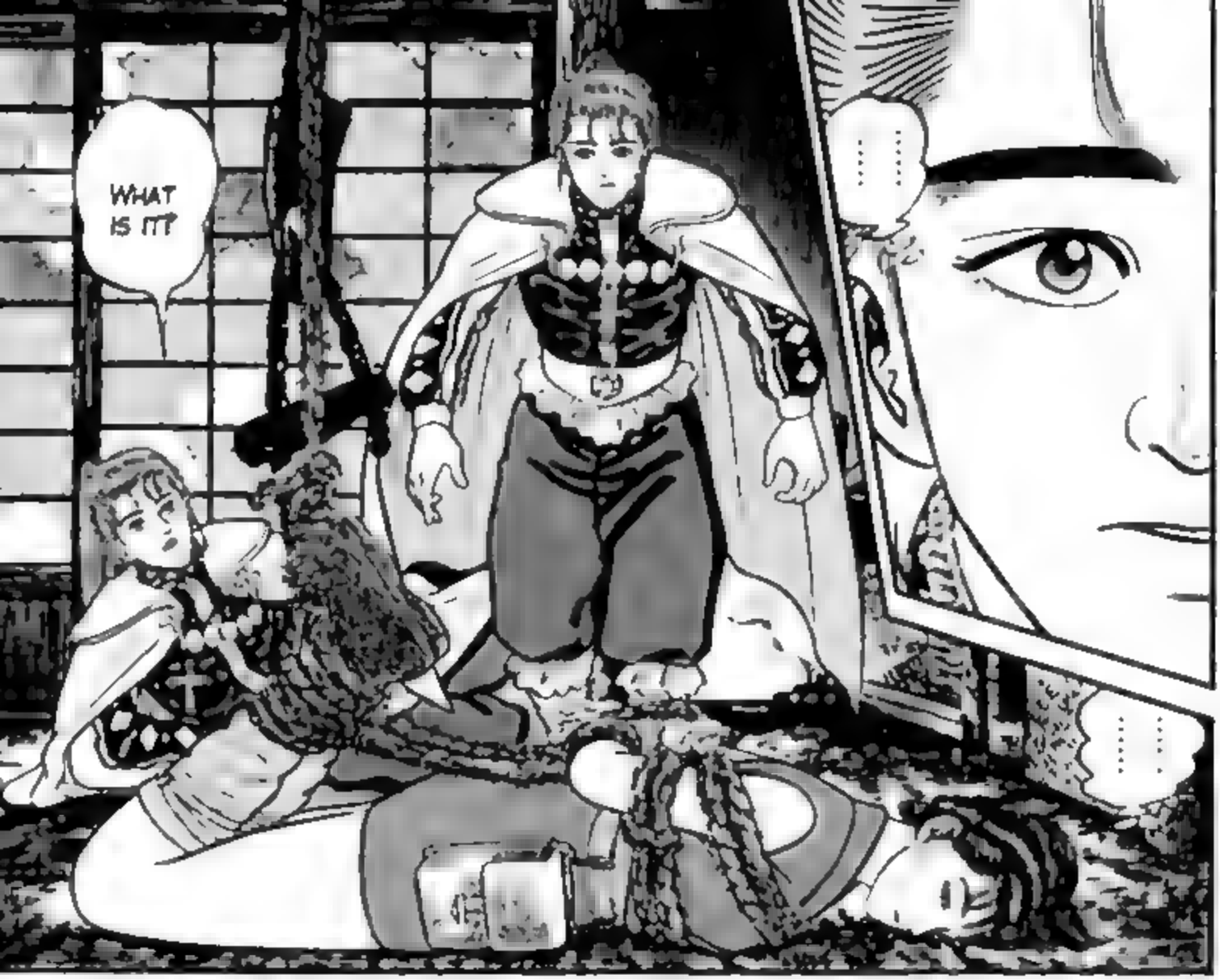


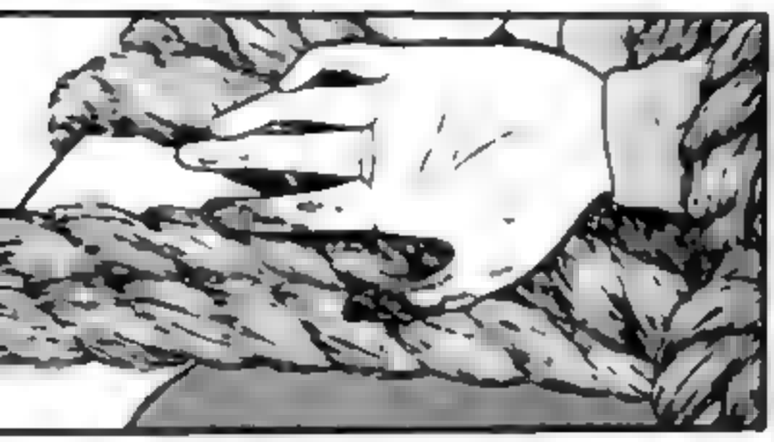

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DYING...
IF SHE ENDS UP...

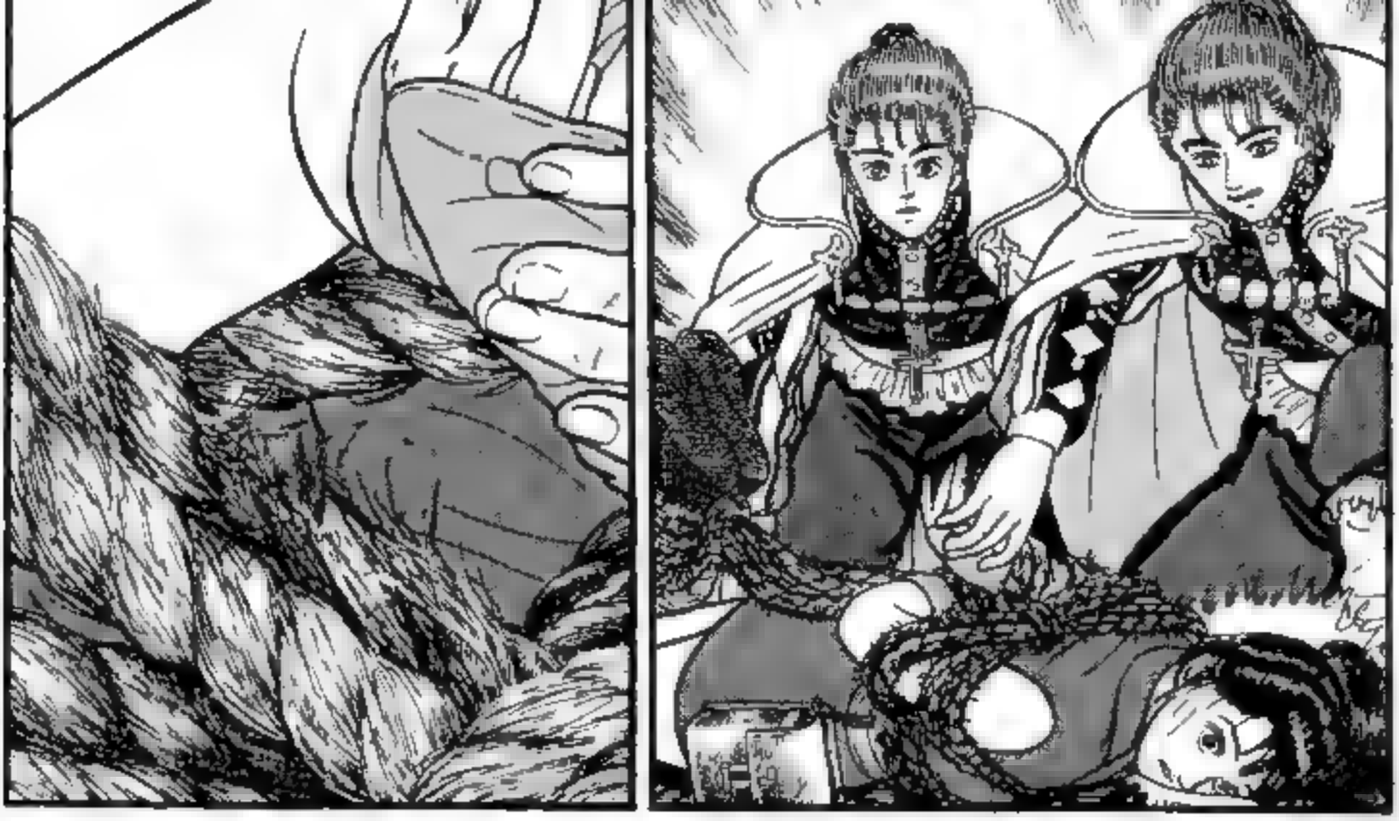

WE HAVE TO AT LEAST MAKE HER DRINK SOME WATER...

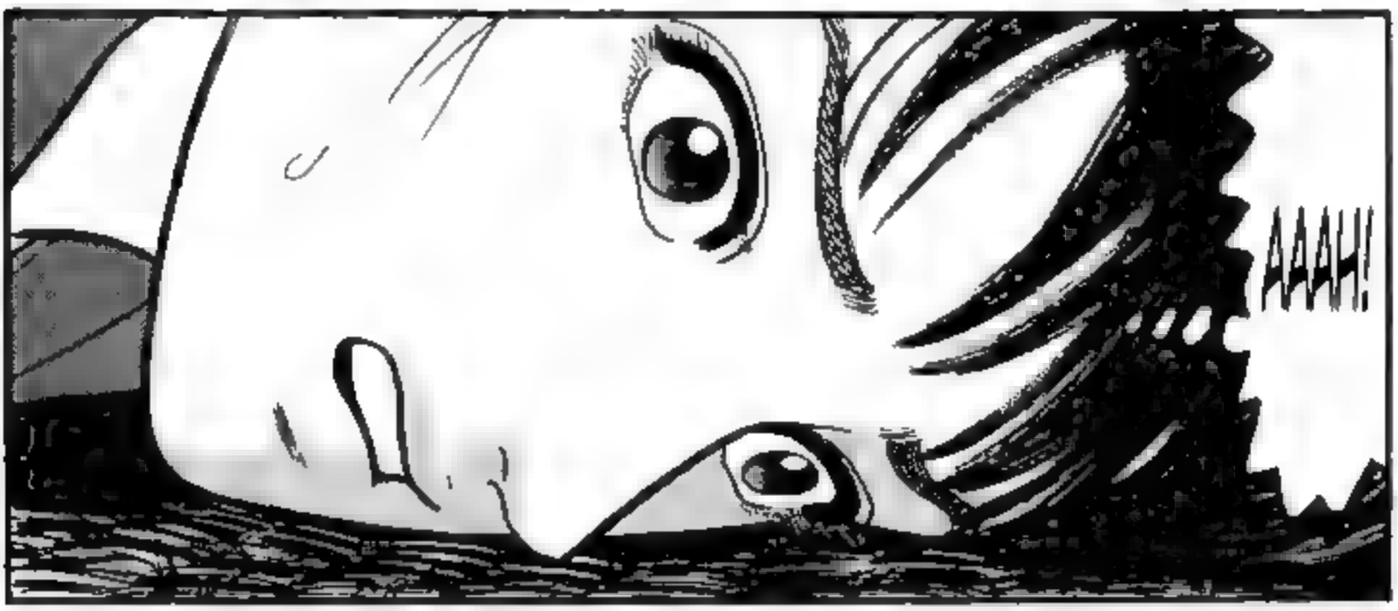

WHAT IS IT?
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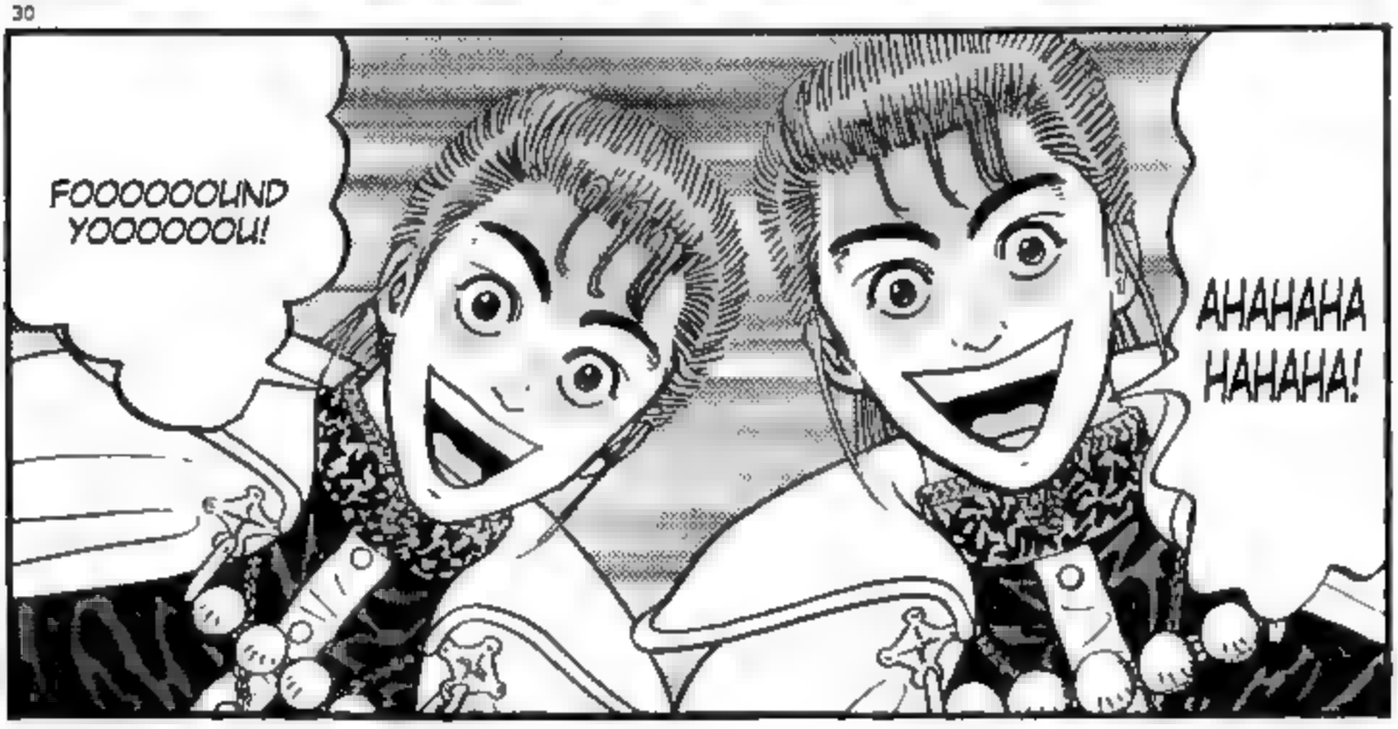

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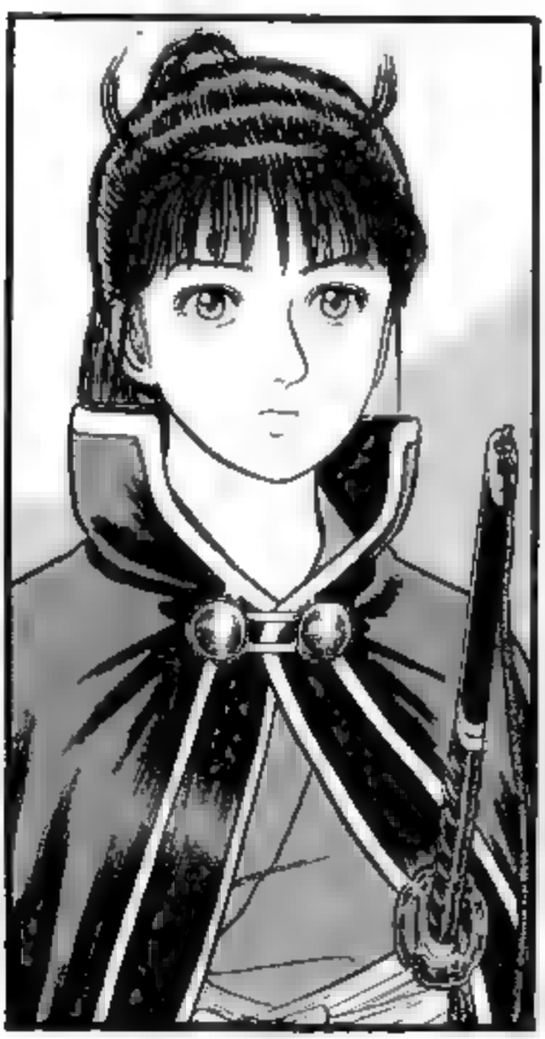

BLOOD ON HER FINGERS





30







CHAPTER 7: THE RASETSU ATTACK



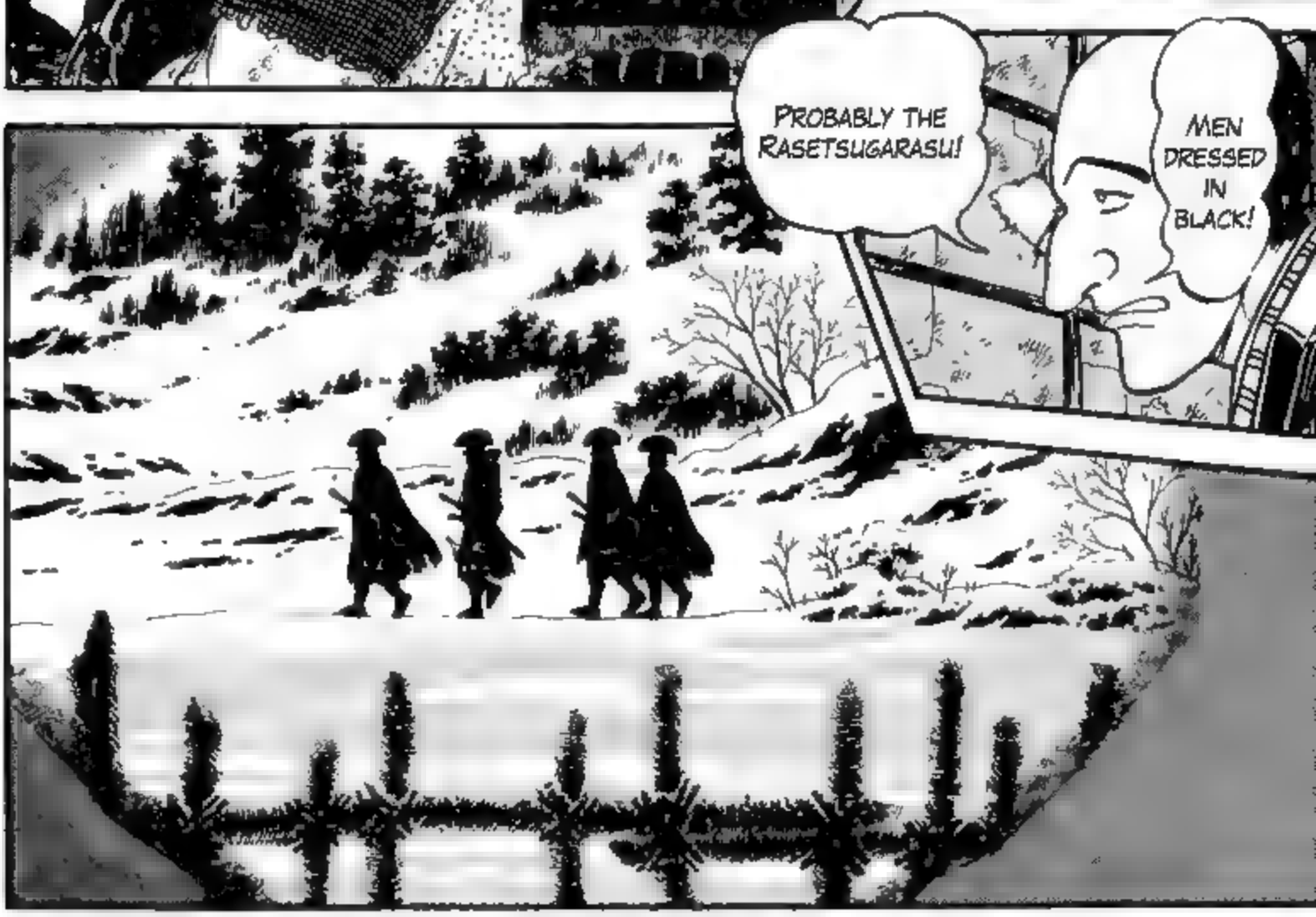



AFTER THOSE, THERE'S ONLY ONE STRAIGHT ROAD TIL THE END!
THERE'RE ONLY TWO SPOTS THAT'RE EASY TO MISS AND I'M GONNA SHOW THEM TO YA NOW.


.....

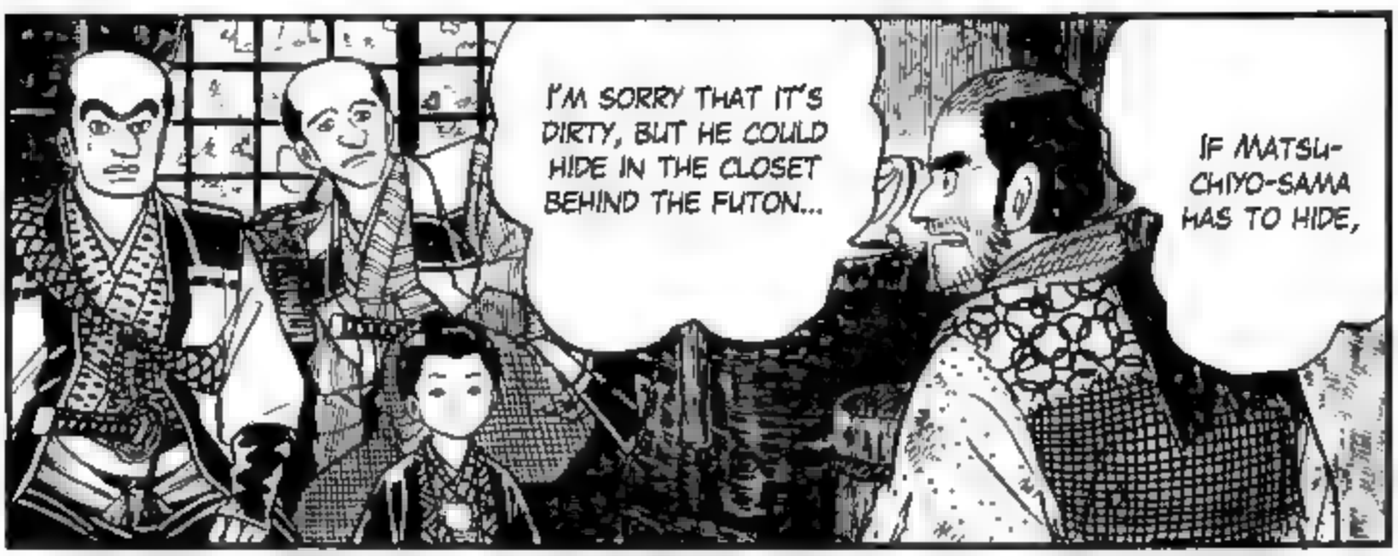

YOU HAVE OUR TRUE THANKS!
GACCHI... YOU'VE HELPED US AGAIN AND AGAIN.


WHAT IS IT?
AHH!


PROBABLY THE RASETSUGARASU!
MEN DRESSED IN BLACK!


ARE THEY COMING THIS WAY!?
WHAT!? THE RASETS-UGARASU!?


DID THEY FOLLOW OUR FOOT-PRINTS!?

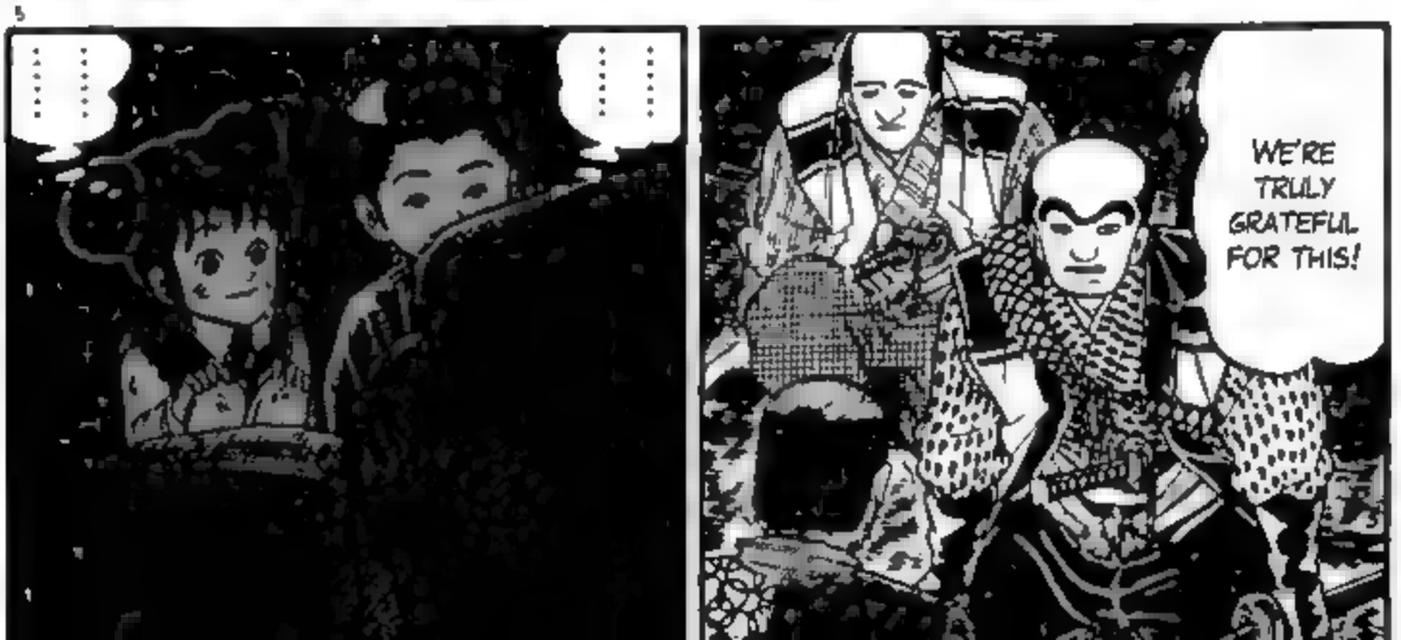

I'M SORRY THAT IT'S DIRTY, BUT HE COULD HIDE IN THE CLOSET BEHIND THE FUTON...
IF MATSU-CHIYO-SAMA HAS TO HIDE,


THERE'S GOING TO BE A FIGHT, RIGHT!?
MATSU-CHIYO-SAMA!
UMMM.. LET'S DO THAT!


AH.
DO IT!
TAE...
YOU SHOULDN'T SEE THIS, EITHER. LET'S HIDE TOGETHER!

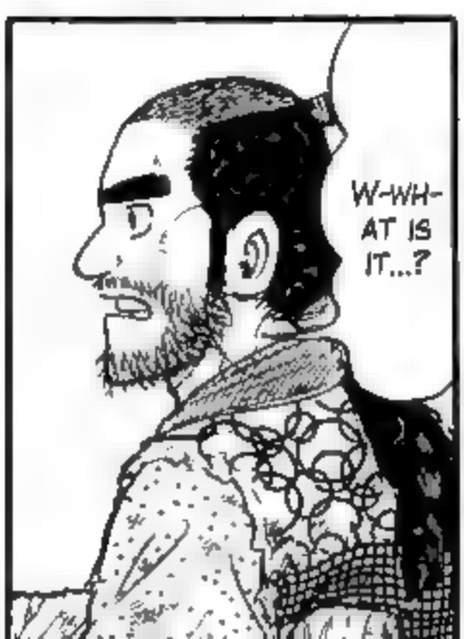

Y-YOU ARE TOO GENEROUS!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
IN THE BACK. BEHIND THE FUTON.


MAYBE THEY HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT THAT YOU'RE IN THIS HOUSE YET. I'LL EXIT FROM BEHIND ..AND TRY TO PUT ON AN ACT.


WE'RE TRULY GRATEFUL FOR THIS!


.....




W-WH-
AT IS
IT...?








INDEED WE ARE.
THOSE OUTFITS... YOU'RE THE ONES CALLED THE RASETSUGARASU!

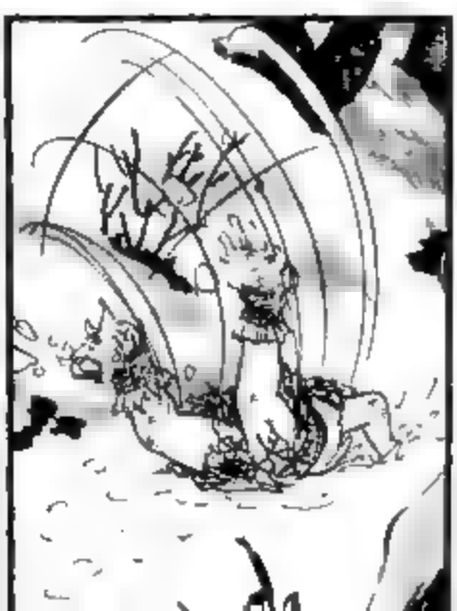

GACCHI! BACK AWAY QUICKLY! AND...


FUAHAHA!
YOU SHOULD BE THE MOST TALENTED AMONG THE CASTLE SAMURA'S RANKS!


.....
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OKAY?
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME... DON'T HESITATE! RUN FROM HERE WITH ALL SPEED!



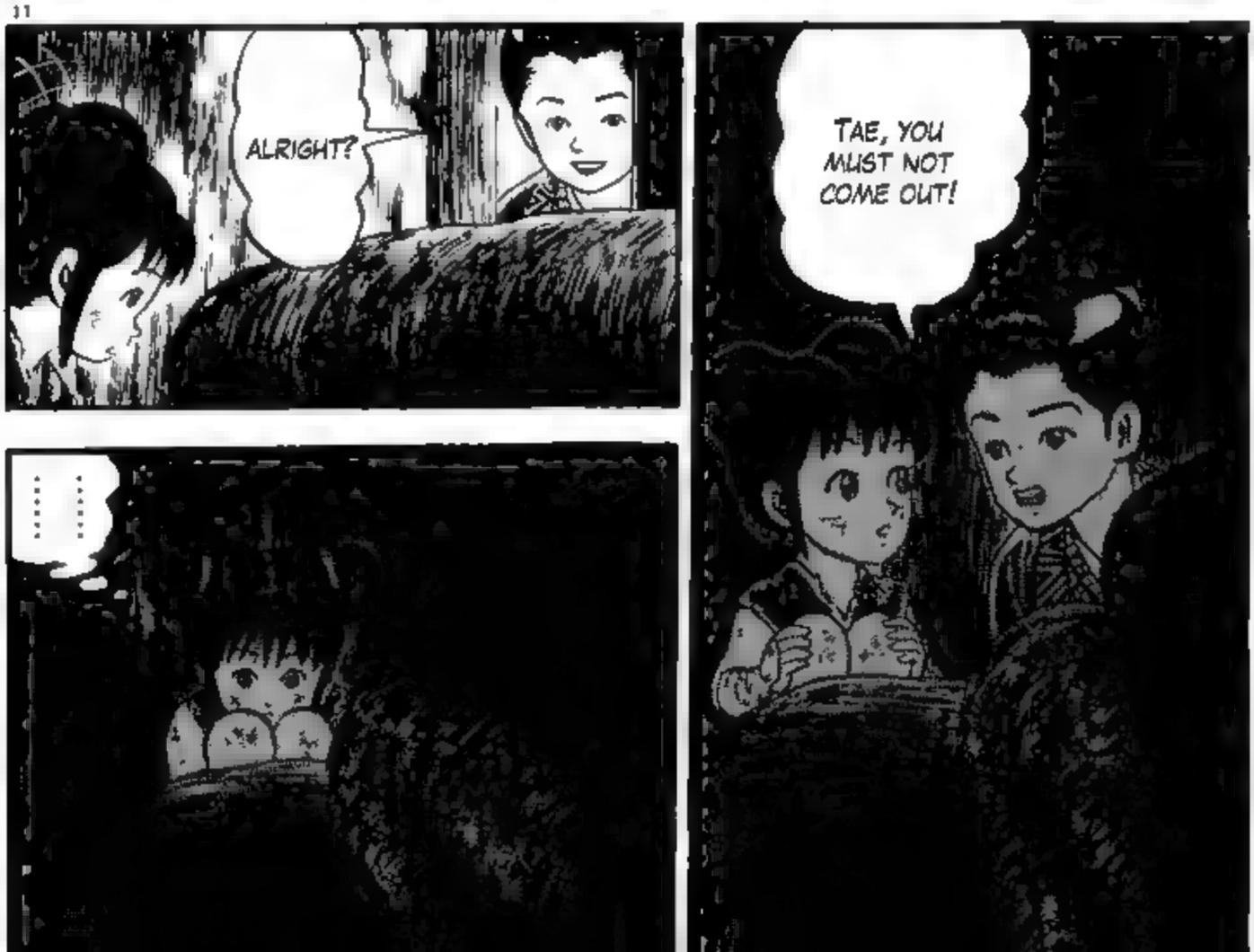





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THOSE RASETSU-GARASU ARE SCUM WHO EVEN KILL KIDS!


I CANNOT REMAIN IN HERE!
MY VASSALS ARE FIGHTING WITH THEIR LIVES TO PROTECT ME!
A-ARE YOU GOING OUT... MATSUCHIYO-SAMA...?
UNTIL I COME BACK TO CALL YOU, NO MATTER WHAT SOUNDS OR VOICES YOU HEAR, YOU MUST NOT COME OUT!!
THOSE MEN ARE THE ELITES OF THE CASTLE SAMURAI! THE MIGHTIEST SWORDSMEN IN OUR SERVICE!
DON'T WORRY! I'LL BE FINE!
I MUST SEE THIS FIGHT WITH MY OWN EYES...

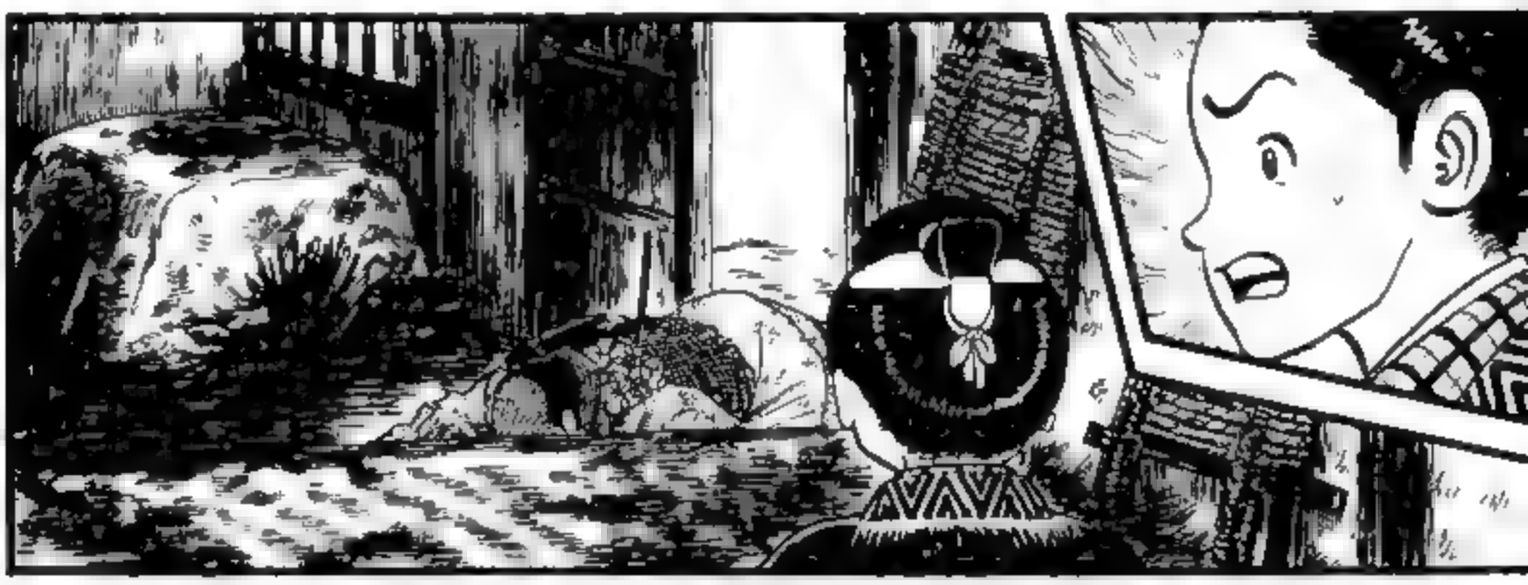

ALRIGHT?
TAE, YOU MUST NOT COME OUT!
.....


I MADE IT!
HMPH! SERVES YOU RIGHT! AS IF I COULD LOSE RUNNING ON MOUNTAIN ROADS!
IT WOULD'VE BEEN BAD IF THEY FOLLOWED HOME!

AHH!


THE OTHER RASETSUGARASU ARE AT MY HOME!

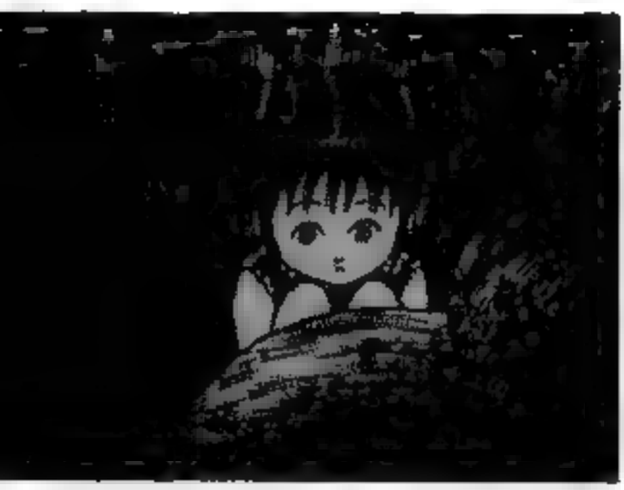


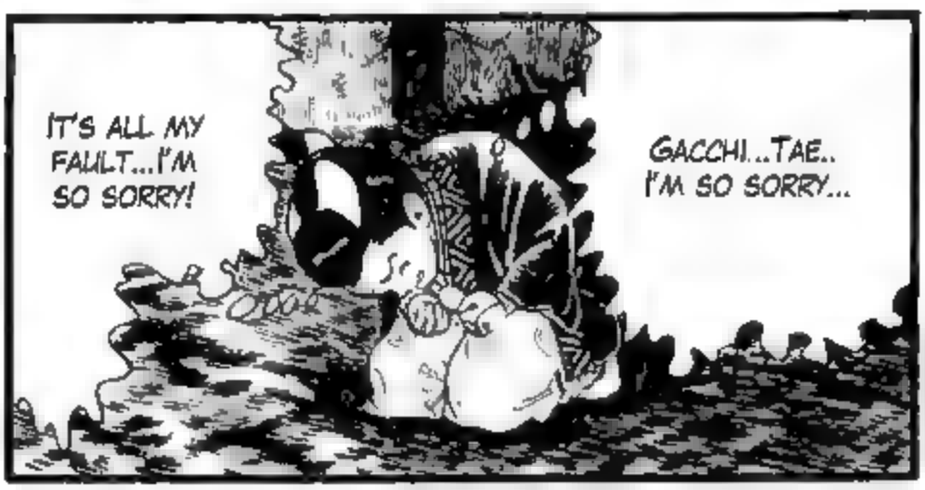


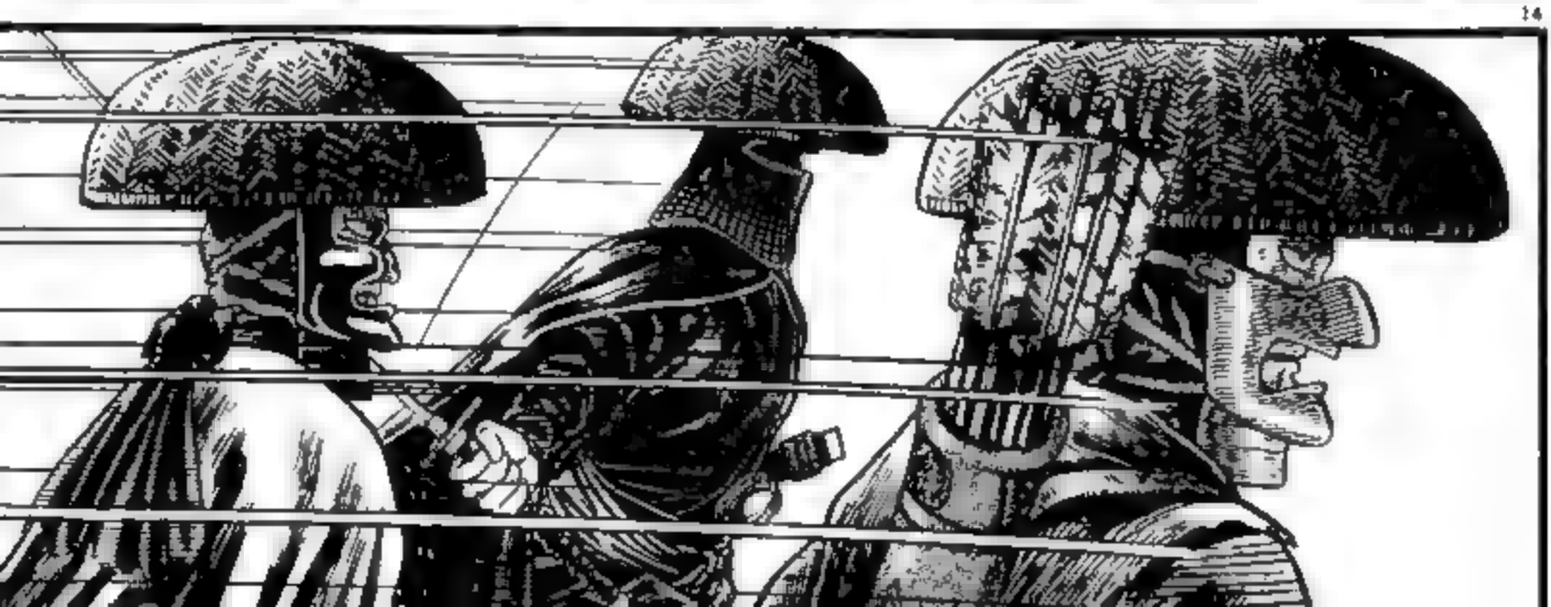





HU HU HU
..
JUST TO MAKE IT FAIR..WE'LL FIGHT YOU WITH SWORDS AS WELL!




IT'S ALL MY FAULT...I'M SO SORRY!
GACCHI..TAE.. I'M SO SORRY...




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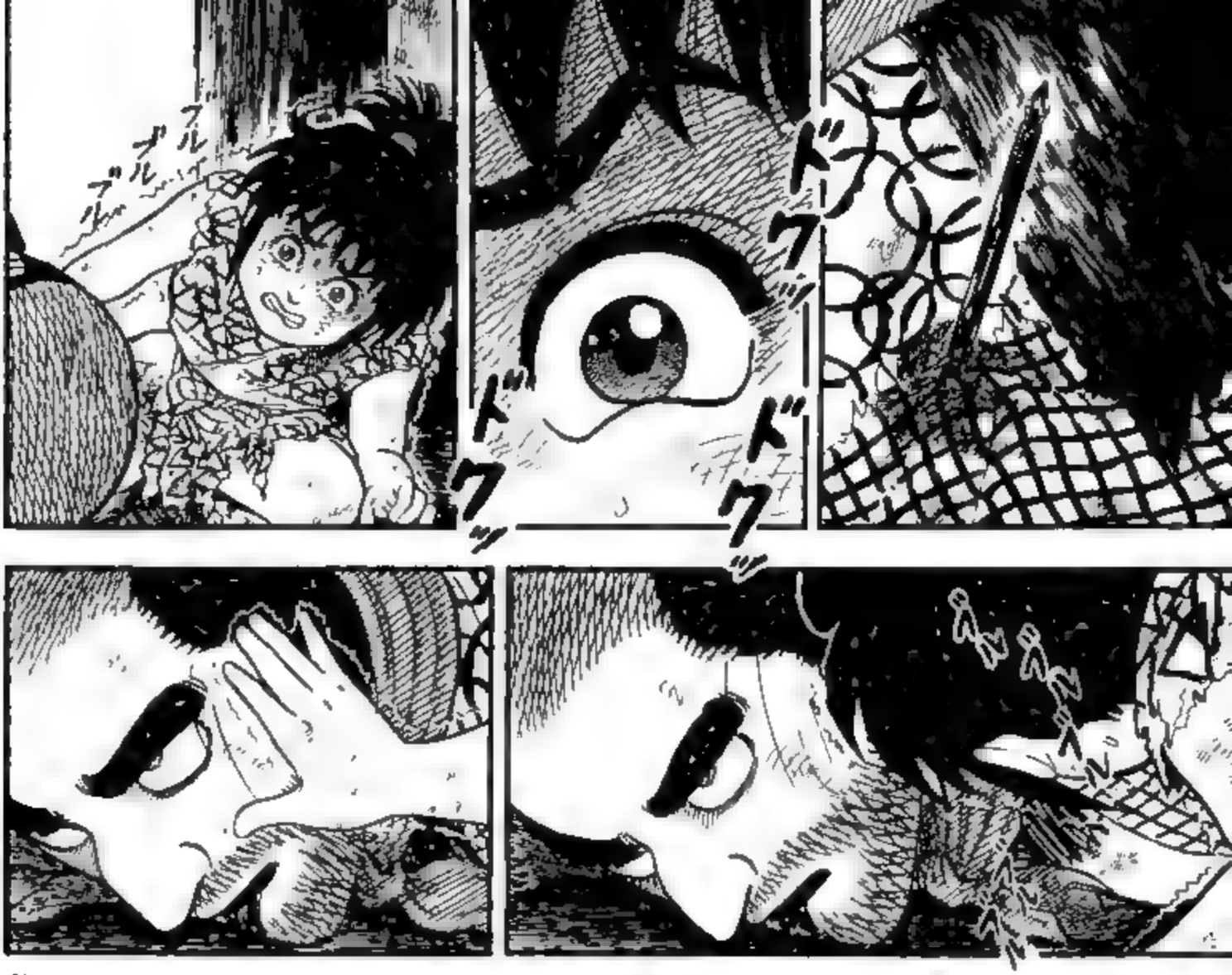

AHH!
THE RASETSUGARASU ARE RETREATING!
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……


WHAT HAPPENED TO MATSU-CHIYO-SAMA!?
BUT WHAT ABOUT DAD!? AND TAE!?
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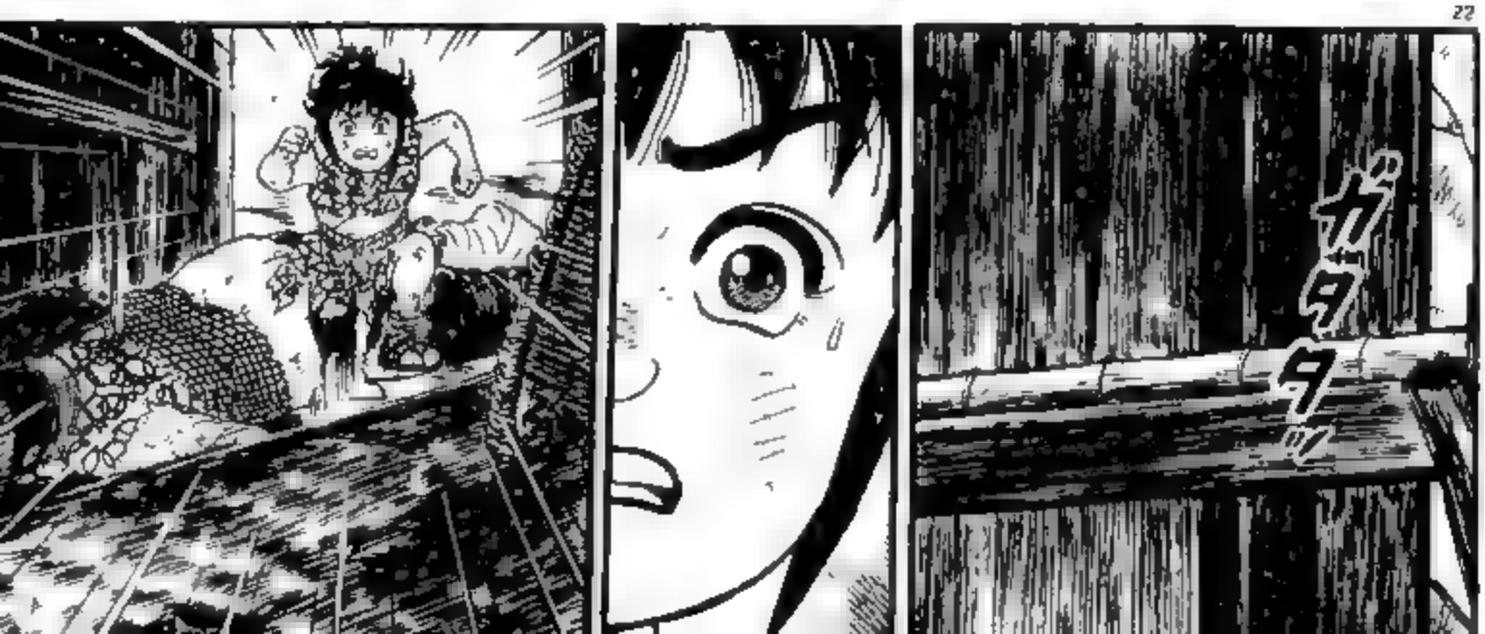

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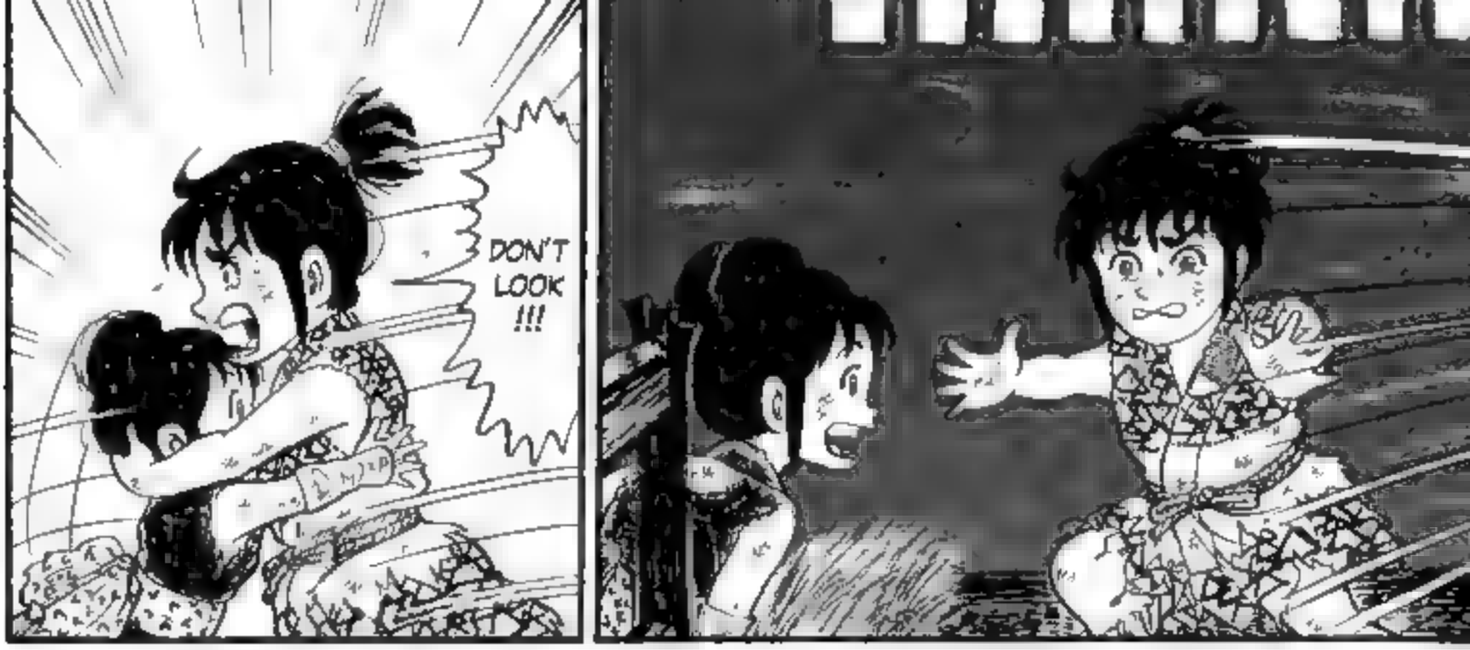

ブルブルブル
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!!
DAD...
IS...
D-DAD...
ブルブルブル


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WHERE ARE YOU, TAE!?
TAE !!
……
MATSU-CHIYO-SAMA !!
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ドクン
TAAAAAAEEE !!!!

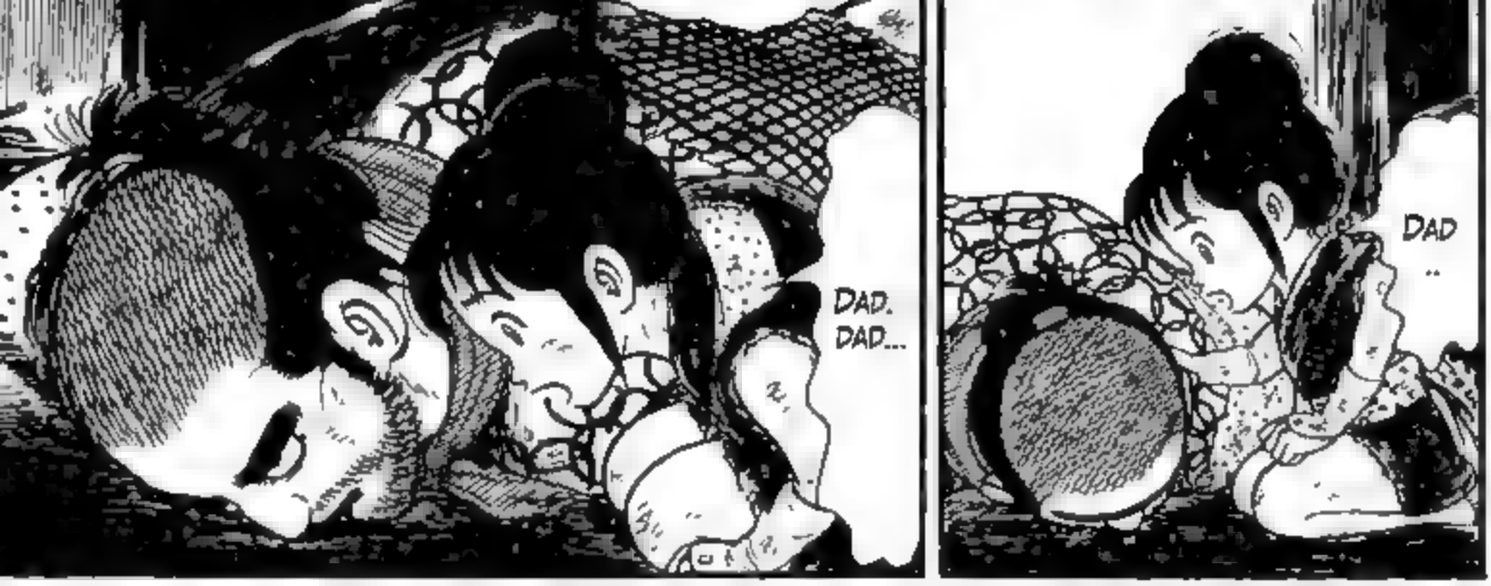
AHH! BIG BROTHER!!
ガタ

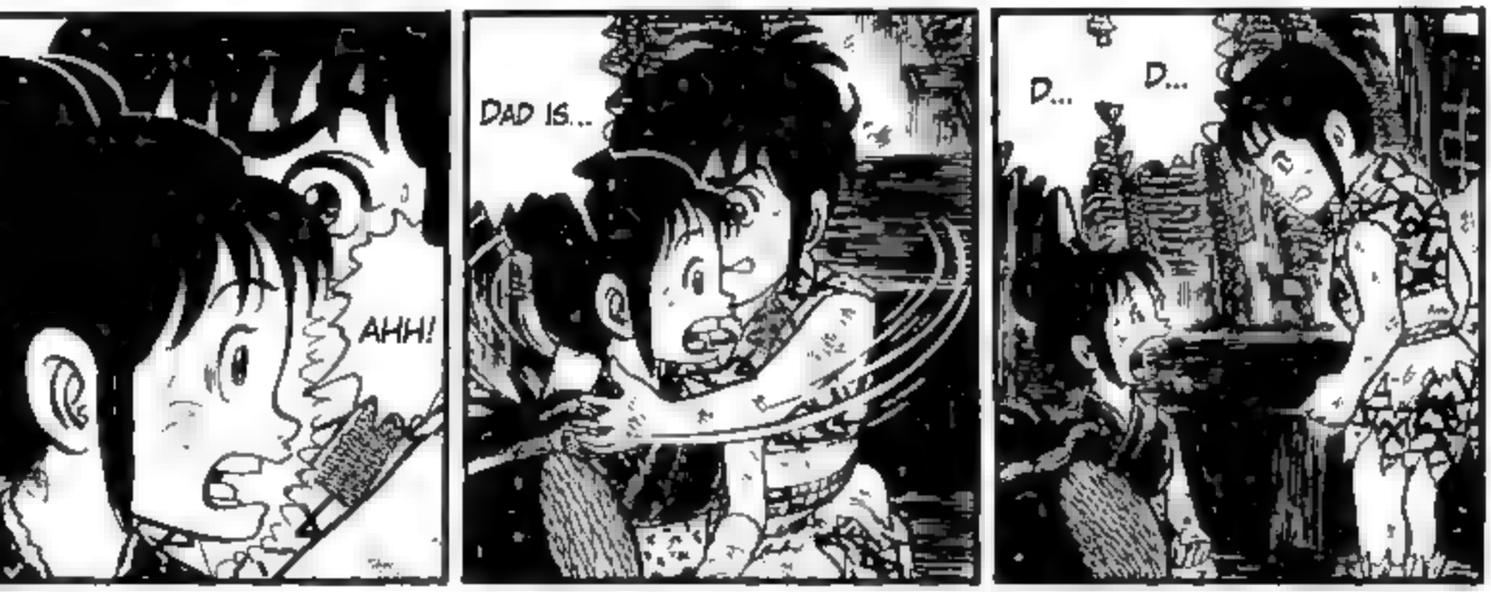

ガタ


DON'T
LOOK
!!!


DON'T
..
!!


. . .


DAD.
DAD...
DAD
..


AHH!
DAD IS...
D...
D...


. . .
. . .
. . . . . .

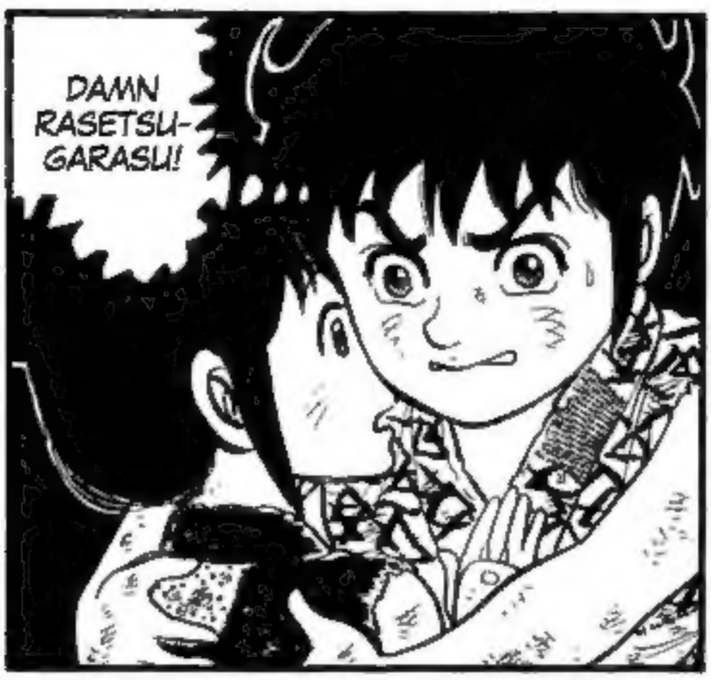



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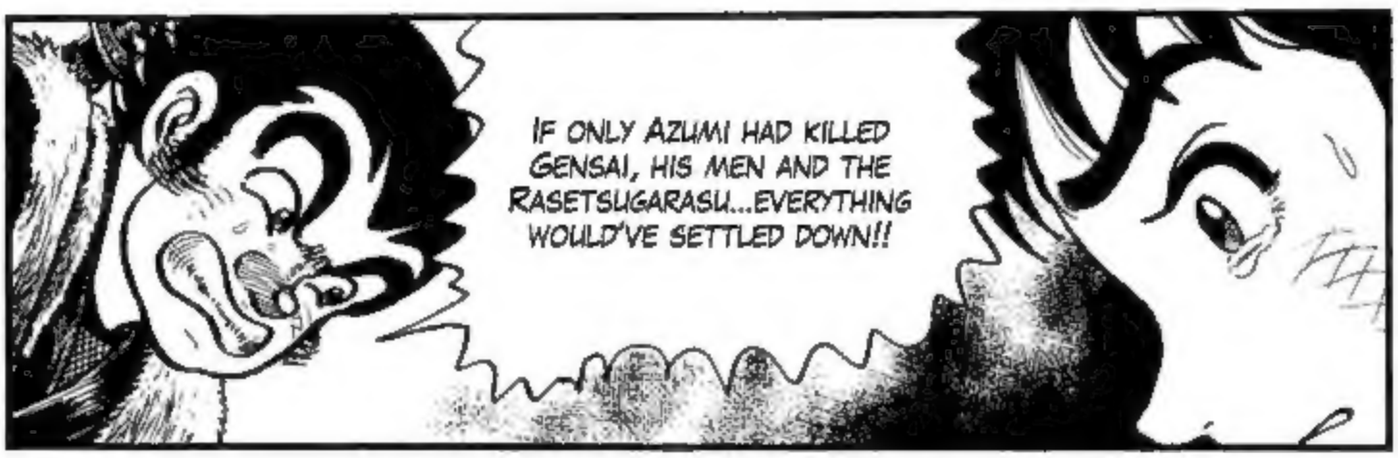

DAMN RASETSU-GARASU!




I COULD KILL THEM ALL AND TAKE REVENGE!!!
IF I WERE A STRONG SAMURAI


DAMN RASET-SUGA-RASUUU !!!!
DAMN RASET-SUGAR-ASU!


SHIIIT!
KILL 'EM ALL!


IF ONLY AZUMI HAD KILLED GENSAI, HIS MEN AND THE RASETSUGARASU...EVERYTHING WOULD'VE SETTLED DOWN!!

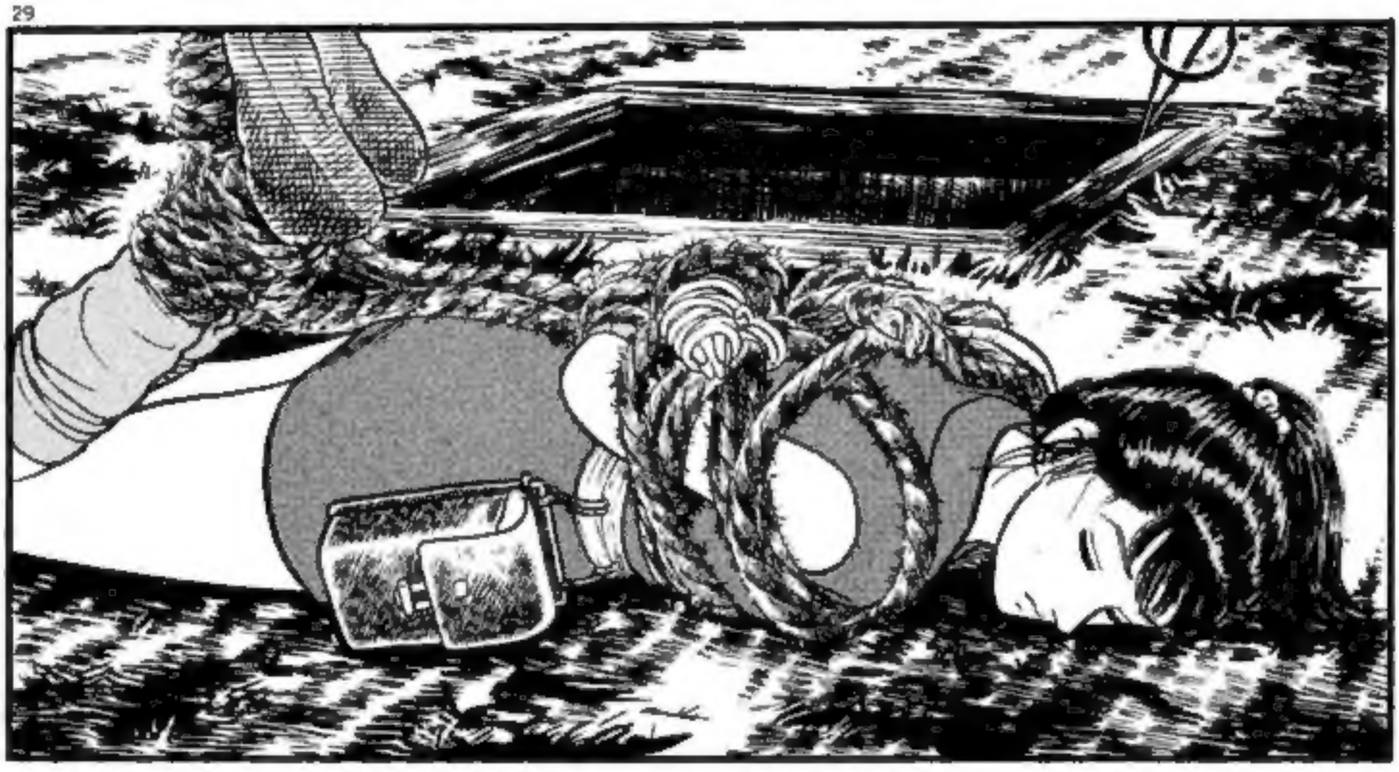

IF AZUMI HAD KILLED THEM, THEN THE WAR WOULD'VE BEEN STOPPED FROM HAPPENING!
WELL... TELLING YOU THIS WON'T CHANGE ANYO THING.


.....
REALLY?
IS IT TRUE...?


IF AZUMI
HAD KILLED THEM ALL...


AZUMI WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULDA DONE THAT...?





〈掲載・ビッグコミックスペリオール平成12年20号より平成13年1号まで〉

「あずみ」 第21集―完―

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